

BAY AREA REPORTER

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State Health Dept. Rapped on Delays

**Critics Say State is Holding Up \$4.2 Million;
Department Plagued with Bureaucratic Snafus**

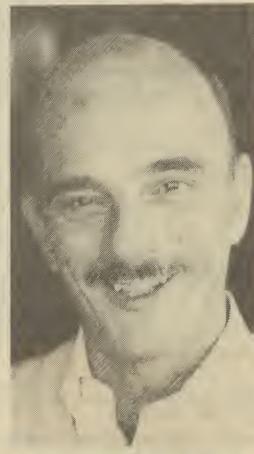
by Ray O'Loughlin

San Francisco Health Commissioner Jim Foster last week denounced the California State Department of Health Services (DHS) as "one of the worst public health systems in the country." Foster was speaking at the Nov. 14 public hearings of the Public Policy Committee of the newly formed California AIDS Strategic Planning Commission.

Foster, who is on the commission, cited a number of problems with DHS regarding AIDS. He criticized the department for not spending money as appropriated, for disputing treatment expenditures and for dragging its feet on a statewide plan to address AIDS.

"They have been sitting on \$4.2 million appropriated by the state Legislature for AIDS," he said. "There has also been constant quibbling with Medi-Cal over money for clinical drug trials," he added.

(Continued on page 15)



'They have been sitting on \$4.2 million appropriated by the state legislature for AIDS. There has also been constant quibbling with Medi-Cal over money for clinical drug trials.'

— Jim Foster on the
California State Department
of Health Services



Hello,
Daly

Police Commissioner Jo Daly descends the steps in Mayor Dianne Feinstein's house while the Mayor greets her. Daly was one of many guests at Feinstein's home for a fundraiser for the San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Marching Band last Friday. For details and more pictures, turn to page 14.

(Photo: R. Pruzan)

Vigil Marks Fourth Week

**Some Protesters Want to End It;
Say Purpose Has Been Met**

by Allen White

The vigil of people with AIDS-Related Complex (ARC) marked its fourth week with protesters still chained to the doors of one entrance to the old Federal Building in San Francisco. Battling cold weather, illness and indifference, a small group maintained the 24-hour vigil that began Oct. 28.

Congresswoman Sala Burton has promised to visit the AIDS/ARC vigil. This week gay activist Mark Cloutier, newly named to the staff of Congresswoman Barbara Boxer, said he will try to have Boxer also meet and listen to the demands of the protesters. But with Congress in session until Dec. 15, it seemed unlikely that either Representative would be in the Bay Area until after that date.

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Gay Sierra Club members are continuing their struggle for recognition from the environmentalist organization. Charlie Linebarger reports, page 3.

Valencia Rose, the cabaret that gave birth to many gay and lesbian talents, will close its doors Nov. 30 as Allen White explains, page 5.

Street Violence casts a long shadow over gay lives and Jay Newquist tells what is being done about it, page 16.

John Erman, director of the TV movie *An Early Frost*, is interviewed by Steve Warren beginning on page 22.

Terrigno Pleads Not Guilty

by Sandy Dwyer and Aslan Brooke

LOS ANGELES—West Hollywood City Councilwoman Valerie Terrigno, who was indicted by a Los Angeles federal grand jury on Oct. 23 for allegedly embezzling \$10,794 from the employment service she once headed, was arraigned Nov. 18 in federal district court.

Terrigno, 32, accompanied by her attorney, Howard Weitzman, pleaded not guilty to all 14 counts in the indictment. Terrigno's trial has been set to begin Jan. 7, 1986, before federal Judge Laughlin E. Waters.

Following the arraignment, Weitzman told reporters, "The process is beginning . . . the system will take effect now. We think we'll be vindicated. We're going to try the case because we plead not guilty and we think that's where the facts lie."

Weitzman, who told the media he had advised Terrigno not to comment on the case, added that, "The presumption of innocence still applies — there have been some comments made out there that are disturbing. I hope all the citizens, both in this county and throughout the nation, will wait until all the evidence comes in before they make any decisions."

The reference to a presumption of innocence by Weitzman was spurred by negative media coverage that has drawn criticism from a number of sources. In fact, media coverage in Los Angeles has been such that Human Rights Campaign Fund co-chair Duke Comegys issued a statement to voice his concern. "The innuendo, rumor and slanted news that preceded her indictment have made it very difficult for Ms. Terrigno to receive a fair hearing," said Comegys.

Rumors concerning an FBI investigation of Terrigno and Crossroads Employment and Job Counseling Services began to circulate in the Los Angeles area in January, less than two months after she became the nation's first openly lesbian mayor.

Morris Kight, a founder of Crossroads, as well as a number

of other organizations, including the Gay Liberation Front, said he had spoken with FBI investigators in December 1984 regarding Terrigno and Crossroads.

However, throughout the year the FBI would not confirm they were investigating Terrigno. Official confirmation did not come until Aug. 7, one day prior to Terrigno's scheduled completion of her term as West Hollywood mayor, when it was announced that a federal grand jury had begun hearings regarding the lesbian official.

Terrigno's indictment and subsequent trial threatens to seriously divide the Los Angeles gay and lesbian community. While some, such as Comegys, lesbian feminist Ivy Bottini and Tony Melia, board member and former president of the Los Angeles Business and Professional Association, urge that Terrigno not be prejudged, others, including Kight, have openly stated their lack of sympathy for Terrigno.

Gloria Allred, a prominent feminist attorney, said Terrigno, "as with anyone, should enjoy the presumption of innocence. I hope the press approaches it that way, as well as the community, until all the evidence is known. The whole process of being indicted," Allred said, "is a one-sided process that takes place in secret," leaving the accused no chance to present their side.

Debate also centers on
(Continued on page 2)

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Howard Weitzman, l., and Valerie Terrigno after the Nov. 18 arraignment.

(Photo: S. Dwyer)

Terrigno

(Continued from page 1)

whether the indictment of Terrigno is a gay and lesbian issue. Kight, for example, was quoted in the non-gay weekly *The Post*, Oct. 31, as saying "I don't see this as a gay and lesbian issue at all." The Los Angeles bi-weekly gay paper, *Frontiers*, agreed

with Kight. In fact, *Frontiers* publisher Bob Craig's editorial ran almost verbatim the following day in *The Post* — in quotes attributed to Kight.

But others, gay and non-gay disagree. California state assemblywoman Maxine Waters (D-LA) said, "We cannot help but be suspicious when we see

this kind of thing because of the traditional harassment of gays and lesbians."

The Los Angeles community waits for Terrigno's trial to begin, which will perhaps answer some of the questions raised by the investigation and subsequent indictment. ■

S. Dwyer and A. Brooke

Vigil

(Continued from page 1)

Kevin Elliott, an aide to Wilson said, "The Senator realizes that AIDS is the country's number one health priority." Asked if Wilson knew of the protest, Elliott said he thought a memo was sent to Wilson's Washington, D.C. office after they read about the protest in the paper. He said the local office sent a staff member to see what was going on.

Elliott said Wilson would not visit the protesters and added, "I think these guys have gone about this all wrong. They have never come to our office and we just heard that there were some people chained to the building."

Elliott added, "You must understand that Sen. Wilson has many priorities and this is just one item on his agenda."

Kevin Shelley, an aide to Cong. Sala Burton said that Burton would meet with the people chained to the building the next time she was in San Francisco, probably in a few weeks. He said he has visited the vigil site many times and has personally advised Burton on the situation.

"Sala Burton," he said, "is very supportive of the goals of the protesters." He said that Burton would apply pressure to get AIDS-Related Complex to be reclassified as a presumptive disability. "This will speed up Social Security and other disability benefits," he said.

AIDS Related Complex (ARC) is a condition that can be as fatal and as debilitating as AIDS. Because of the standards used by the federal Centers for Disease Control, a person with ARC is not classified in the same manner as a person with AIDS. A primary concern of the people participating in the vigil is to draw attention to AIDS-Related Complex.

As each day of the vigil drags on in the coldest November in memory, frustration mounts at the lack of concern by the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Employees of that department are forced to walk by the protesters each day as they enter and leave their workplace. Finding any person who would address the plight of those chained to the

building in the governmental agency was almost hopeless.

After numerous attempts, B.A.R. spoke with Dr. Bernard Cordis at HHS. He said, "It would appear that most people in the department have sympathy for these people." But, he added, "You must understand that these people are speaking as individuals and not as the government."

Cordis said he believed the protest was directed at the wrong place. The implication was that the protest should be aimed towards Washington, D.C. where policy is made. He was asked if anyone had told their Washington office about the protest. He could only say, "I suppose someone must have told somebody in Washington that we have people chained to our building."

A call to the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C. produced only an operator's response that she had not been instructed where to direct inquiries about people who might be chained to their buildings across the United States.

Some discord has also become apparent at the protest. Frank Burt, one of the original participants, left the site this week claiming that the vigil had accomplished all it could reasonably expect to.

"It's time to bring it to an end peacefully," he said. "Our goal has been met in that we've increased the awareness of the problems. There are now state hearings scheduled in December."

He said participation has actually been "slacking off" and that people are "getting stressed out" and are getting ill from the prolonged exposure.

Mark Cloutier of Cong. Boxer's office, has been assigned to work on AIDS related projects.

"I am going to push and push hard to get governmental approval of drugs which have been shown effective in the fight against AIDS," said Cloutier. He said that additional federal funding is going to be needed to add more people to experimental drug programs.

"Not enough attention has been paid to people with ARC," he said. "Expanded funding could give us the means to reverse the virus in people with ARC. For these people it could be a cure," according to Cloutier.

Local political clubs are also beginning to join the battle with those chained to the Federal Building. Rick Pacurar, president of the Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club, said that there will soon be a new "Can We Talk" brochure released. The primary emphasis of the new brochure will be AIDS-Related Complex. The brochure is in response to numerous requests for information.

An Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club spokesperson stated that a substantial portion of the proceeds from the club's Christmas party next month will go directly to the Federal Building vigil. Several members of all the clubs have been visible at the site. Wayne Moore, president of the Stonewall Gay Democratic Club has also spent much time at the U.N. Plaza location.

One of the most moving moments since the protest began took place a week ago at the meeting of the San Francisco Tavern Guild at Castro Street Station. Chris Bowman, an aide to Sen. Milton Marks and newly elected president of Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights brought Steven Russell, a person with ARC, to the meeting.

Rising from the corner of the bar, Russell thanked the Tavern Guild's Thriftstore for their donation of blankets. Earlier this month when it began to rain and the temperature dropped, Tavern Guild secretary Randy Johnson brought the blankets down to the plaza site.

Russell also thanked Sup. John Molinari. Filled with emotion, Russell thanked Molinari for his assistance in keeping the vigil safe. Molinari was quick to act the first weekend when there was violence. He also acted a week later against the Department of Public Works when he learned of workers turning fire hoses on the demonstrators.

During the past week Sup. Molinari intervened a third time. It was learned that a police officer had made a decision that the several tents now erected would have to be taken down. Molinari passed the word to the demonstrators that the tents could stay up. Furthermore, the Supervisor said that the only person who could now order any change at the protest site was Deputy Police Chief George Emlil. ■

A. White

Gay Sierrans Seek Recognition

November Chapter Elections May Shift Votes on Local Board to Admit Group

by Charles Linebarger

Gay and lesbian Sierra Club members almost made history in February of this year. They had proposed that the Bay Area chapter of the club form a new activities section, Gay and Lesbian Sierrans, to join the ranks of Sierra Singles, Solo Sierrans, and Sierra Couples. The proposal lost in a 4-4 vote at that time. But the idea has continued to gain adherents, and proponents now say that the club's November elections hold the key to the creation of Gay and Lesbian Sierrans.

The Sierra Club is one of the largest environmental organizations in the United States with a national membership of close to 350,000, and a California state membership of between 100,000 to 150,000. The Bay Area chapter has approximately 32,000 members.

Steven Krefting, a 30-year-old club member who is running for the board, of the Bay Area chapter, recalled his feelings when the chapter refused to allow gays and lesbians to organize their own activity section. "I was really shocked when it was voted down," said Krefting. "I didn't think it was controversial. The chapter had had gay people working for it for a long time and it seemed a logical outgrowth of programs the club already had."

ISSUE WAS HOMOPHOBIA

"I think the issue was homophobia," Krefting added. "There were some superficial issues thrown up as excuses. One was that there was the potential of hurting fundraising by the club. I think there would have been some losses in membership but they would have been more than offset by gains in membership and a new resource base for raising money."

Martin Ellis, a 30 year-old computer programmer in favor of a gay and lesbian activity section, pointed out that the Sierra Club is divided into numerous local chapters. Each local chapter has the right to set up its own activity sections, according to Ellis. Here, he said, gays and lesbians have been dealing with the Bay Area chapter. They have not been seeking recognition from the club's national organization.

"The local Bay Area chapter already has three heterosexual activity sections," noted Ellis.

For the last eight months, in the absence of official recognition by their local chapter, gay and lesbian Sierra Club members in the San Francisco area have been meeting regularly. "We've had about 35 hikes and outings," said Ellis. "We've gone to Yosemite five times. We've gone to the lost coast in Mendocino, to Feather Falls, to Mount Shasta, to Mono Lake. We go on bike hikes through Golden Gate Park. And we have monthly programs on environmental concerns."

ELECTION HOLDS THE KEY

Of the nine-member Bay Area chapter's board of directors, four slots are up for election this month. All four of the incumbents now fighting to retain their seats voted against a gay and lesbian activity section in February. Krefting and Ellis are hopeful that a pro-gay majority will be elected to the board when the issue of Lesbian and Gay Sierrans next comes before it.

"I think we have a very good chance of winning," said Krefting. "I think we will get the two votes we need to have the section established because we've done

mailings on behalf of my candidacy and on behalf of others who are supporting the (gay and lesbian) section." In addition to Krafting, the group hopes to elect Norman LaForce, Madge Strong, and Michael Brockman to the board.

John Holtzclaw, the chair of the Bay Area Chapter of the Sierra Club, talked about the efforts of gays and lesbians in the club to organize. "I voted for it. We already have three activity sections which are heterosexual, so I think it's only fair to have a homosexual activity section."

(Continued on page 15)



The Sierra Club



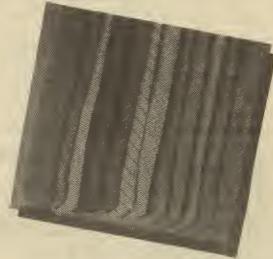
'The chapter had had gay people working for it for a long time and it seemed a logical outgrowth of programs the club already had.'

— Steven Krafting

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SF Board Passes Privacy Bill

Maher Bill Bans Blood Tests for Drugs; Mayor Has 10 Days to Sign or Veto

by Will Snyder

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors overwhelmingly passed a bill which would prohibit employers from imposing random on-the-job drug testing of employees. The bill, sponsored by Sup. Bill Maher, passed by a 9-1 margin with only Sup. Quentin Kopp casting a negative vote. The measure is now on its way to Mayor Dianne Feinstein, who has ten days to either sign or veto the measure.

The latter possibility worries Maher and his supporters. Feinstein is rumored to be uneasy with the bill. Bill Strawn, a press aide for the mayor, agreed with earlier published reports that Feinstein has "serious concerns" about the bill.

The gist of Maher's bill is a prohibition against employers who want to require blood and urine testing for employees. Maher's office was reportedly flooded with complaints about such tests and threats of dismissal. He introduced the bill in September.

"What it basically says is that people have a right to privacy," said Maher. "It says you can't force them to take blood, urine or encephalographic tests as a condition of continued employment."

Maher also said the bill protects other aspects of a person's private life.

"This bill says (an employer) can't tell who an employee can associate with or date," said Maher. "This grew out of a series of cases concerned with IBM. There, they fired a woman for dating someone from a rival company."

The bill does not completely prohibit an employer from testing under certain situations. Testing is permissible if the employer "has reasonable grounds to believe that an employee's facilities are impaired while on the job."

It also states that an employer can test if "the employee is in a position where such impairment presents a clear and present danger."

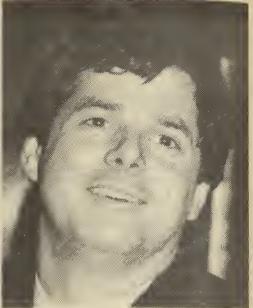
ger to the physical safety of the employee, another employee, or to a member of the public." Employers must then provide the employee, at the employer's expense, the opportunity to have the sample tested or evaluated by a state licensed independent laboratory and allow the employee a reasonable opportunity to rebut or explain the results.

Kopp claims Maher is actually lacking compassion for employees with his bill.

"I asked Sup. Maher what would happen if a guy keeled over in the office. Then, what could be done?" Kopp related. "He said the employer's option would be to fire the guy."

"Now that's a heck of an attitude," Kopp continued. "A lot of companies have programs set up to help employees lick their drug problems and he's just saying to go ahead and fire the poor guy."

"Oh, Quentin is just being painful again," said Maher. "Either you believe people have



Bill Maher

(Photo: Rink)

rights to privacy or you don't and Quentin backs the businesses which want that kind of thing.

"Quentin believes people should just hop into the next room and produce a urine sample whenever the company says to hop."

Maher said the bill has plenty of support from what he refers to as "the mainstream business community."

"I can name whole bunches of companies that are supporting this bill," said Maher. "Bechtel, PG&E, Chevron, Safeway, the phone company and the Chamber of Commerce... they all say they can live with this bill."

Kopp said he estimates 90 percent of all job holders will be ineligible for drug testing if Maher's bill goes through.

"This bill is an open invitation for drug users," Kopp said.

One person who hopes Maher's bill passes is an employee of San Francisco Federal Savings and Loan Association. He is a gay man who wishes to remain anonymous. He claims he is one of 40 persons complaining about his company's policy of mandatory drug testing for all employees.

"It isn't just the theory of drug testing that bothers me," said the man. "I have been alcohol and drug-free for over a year."

(Continued on page 19)

'We Cover Issues,' Says KQED

Continues to Air Christian Science Monitor Despite Paper's Anti-Gay Job Policy

by Charles Linebarger

Responding to recent allegations that it has given the lesbian and gay community little in programming and has left lesbians and gays out in the cold when organizing its Community Advisory Panel and board of directors, "KQED is reaching out to the gay community," Holly Hartz, director of corporate communications, said.

According to Hartz, "In fact, we do cover those issues (gay-related issues) regularly. I have seven shows we've broadcast on channel 9 during the last year. We ran two gay-oriented shows on Express during the last year. In January we ran a program on AIDS having to do with blood testing, and in October we ran an Express titled 'Lives in the Balance' on AIDS treatment." These were both, she said, half hour documentaries.

Art Notes are five minute spots that run twice a week on channel 9, and according to Hartz, two Art Notes in the last year had gay themes. In April, a five minute segment dealt with gay and lesbian writers. In September another five minute spot dealt with AIDS and the gay artist.

The Times of Harvey Milk, an award-winning feature film documentary on the election and assassination of gay Sup. Harvey Milk ran this month. And also this November, KQED-TV is

running a 30-minute documentary called, "Pride, Prejudice, and Gay Politics" on "issues and challenges facing the state's gay community," said Hartz.

And according to Hartz, the station ran a 30-minute program called Silent Pioneers on the subject of older gay couples, last June during Gay Pride Week. That covers 1985. Looking into the coming year, Hartz said that channel 9 is planning to air Word Is Out, an award-winning film by gay film directors, Peter Adair and Rob Epstein, during Gay Pride Week 1986.

Hartz also talked about KQED's FM radio station 88.5. "In February," Hartz said, "Dr. David Watts did his weekly call-in show on AIDS. And last Spring, we ran two dramas on gay themes, Pink Triangles, a 90-minute documentary on the treatment of homosexuals in German concentration camps, and Rock Lobster, another 90-minute documentary on the

effort of a boy in Providence, Rhode Island to take his boyfriend to the senior prom with him."

This last September, according to Hartz, the station ran a live call-in show on AIDS, and carried a four-part series called, Women's Lives: Women and Lesbian Culture. And for Gay Pride Week 1986, the station plans two documentaries on gay themes, one on "financial issues facing gays and lesbians," and another that "focuses on custody issues facing lesbian and gay parents."

Both Hartz and Carol Pierson, the program director for KQED radio, said that KQED was doing its job of covering issues of importance to the gay community. But Pierson, who made the decision to air news broadcasts produced by the Christian Science Monitor, said that as of now she has no intention of taking the show off the air.

The Christian Science Monitor aroused the ire of the gay community recently when it recently fired a lesbian reporter because, they said, she refused to be "healed" by the church. In an Aug. 21 decision, the highest court in Massachusetts ruled that the Monitor newspaper was an "activity" of the Christian Science Church and therefore had the right to dismiss Christine Madson, a 34-year-old lesbian writer, on religious grounds.

When asked whether she intended to continue airing the controversial program, Pierson said, "My intentions are to continue to carry it at this time because I feel it gives a unique perspective on international events that isn't available in other

(Continued on page 19)

Valencia Rose to Close Its Doors

Cabaret to Take Final Bows Nov. 30

by Allen White

Saturday night, Nov. 30, the Valencia Rose Cafe and Cabaret will close. What has become a landmark in gay and lesbian entertainment will close its doors under the current management. Whether it may continue under new management now can only be considered highly speculative.

Valencia Rose manager Lani Kaahumanu said that it is definite that the current lease holders, Hank Wilson and Ron Lanza, will give up control on Nov. 30. She said many people are trying to put together some type of workable financial arrangement that will keep the Rose open. To date, all attempts have proven futile.

To keep the Valencia Rose open requires a credible person to sign a lease specifying a rent of \$48,000 a year. It is understandable that many people want to save this unique institution. A group of lesbian and gay business people are attempting to get the backing to keep the business alive.

It has been pointed out that the kitchen could be sub-leased and the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade Committee is now using the facilities for their office and paying rent. If somehow all these factors could be made to come together, the Valencia Rose may stay open. Should these efforts fail, the Rose will close a week from Saturday night.

Manager Kaahumanu has been told to cancel all bookings for the club after the Nov. 30 date. Ironically, the name of the closing featured act is Sweet Sur-

Valencia Rose quickly gained a reputation as a springboard for gay and lesbian entertainment talent. No place was quite like the Rose.

render. They will be part of the closing show which has been titled, Farewell to Arms. There will be two closing shows at 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. with many of the performers who got their start here returning to be part of the evening's entertainment.

Valencia Rose quickly gained a reputation as a springboard for gay and lesbian entertainment talent. No place was quite like the Rose. To hear the names of the artists who have performed at the club is to catch a glimmer of the character of the club. Tom



The Valencia Rose in its heyday. From left to right, booking impresario Donald Montwill, host David Alphin, comic/singer Jeannine Strobel, singer/comic Lea deLaria, comedian Tom Ammiano, owner/manager Ron Lanza, comic Monica Palacios and comic Danny Williams. (Photo: Rink)

Ammiano, Danny Williams, Lea deLaria and Jeannine Strobel, Doug Holsclaw, Marga Gomez, Monica Palacios, Suzy Berger, Laurie Bushman, Whoopi Goldberg, Linda Moakes and Mario Mondelli are just a few of the many who have entertained at the Rose.

The club has also been the place for evenings of entertainment by such veteran lesbian and gay performers as Jose Sarria and Pat Bond.

It was also the location for political battles. There may have been as many meetings scheduled there to close the baths as there were equally fervent meetings to keep the baths open. The Valencia Rose was a town hall for the gay community.

The Rose was also a gallery space for the exhibition of art.

Pictures, paintings, sculptures, all types of art, were at one time or another on display.

The Valencia Rose became a mirror of the many artistic facets of the area's gay and lesbian community.

The primary reason for closure is financial. In spite of many struggles and hard work, the multi-faceted performance center could never quite generate a sustained profit.

Under the management of Donald Montwill and Jim Manness, the Valencia Rose opened in January, 1982. The two were politically involved and their activism gave the place a sense of adventure.

For many, there has always been an uncertainty about what might happen next at the Rose. Every day has been a gamble at

the Valencia Rose and now its supporters are hoping that just maybe someone will step forward and be the good luck charm that will keep the Rose alive.

S.J. HTLV Tests

The site for AIDS antibody testing in Santa Clara County has moved to the Health Department's Park Alameda facility at 976 Lensen Avenue, San Jose.

Tests are administered in the Sexually Transmitted Disease/Venereal Disease Clinic at the facility, which can be reached by public transportation on bus routes 22, 32, 62, 63, and 81.

For more information call (408) 299-5913.



West Hollywood Conference

On Nov. 22 an historic event will take place: the first gathering of openly lesbian and gay elected officials in the United States will be held in West Hollywood. Along with appointed officials and potential candidates for office, they will gather at the West Hollywood Conference to discuss directions for lesbians and gay men in elected politics. The conference theme, Speaking for Ourselves, emphasizes the importance of direct involvement for the lesbian and gay community. The goals of the conference are:

- To familiarize public officials and candidates with issues of concern to the gay and lesbian community.
- To adopt principles that bind together all openly lesbian and gay officials; to identify and articulate a vision of human rights.
- To develop an agenda for openly lesbian and gay elected and appointed officials to act upon.
- To nurture and support gay men and lesbians who are potential candidates for office.
- To develop a plan of action for public officials around the AIDS crisis.
- To establish a vehicle for political impact and personal support.

The conference will meet these goals through general sessions that feature outstanding speakers from the gay and non-gay political world.

For further information, call Christine Riddiough at (202) 483-4488 or NAGLDC at (202) 547-3104.

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EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Redlining By Another Means

Insurance companies have discovered AIDS and they are speaking in no uncertain terms about it. They want to be able to use any tests available to screen out what they fear will become enormous drains on their treasures.

Drawing a big red line around Castro Street, or around all San Francisco, and denying claims from that area by single men is one way of avoiding anticipated losses. Fortunately, for us there are a number of legislative prohibitions against redlining, against AIDS discrimination and against misuse of laboratory tests for medical purposes.

The latest example is Sup. Bill Maher's proposed ordinance that forbids employers from requiring that all employees submit to blood and urine tests. It has passed the Board of Supervisors and soon goes to the Mayor for approval.

Ostensibly, employers want these tests to weed out drug users. But for the gay community, such testing presents a graver threat. Maher's legislation would be one more roadblock for such intrusions on our privacy and other basic rights.

Red lines can sometimes be hard to trace. There are a variety of ways to redline while not "redlining." You can simply require that all applicants or employees take a test that will root out a specific group. By not mentioning any special class, discrimination prohibitions are simply dodged. Insurers and employers paying medical insurance premiums say use of blood tests will detect what they see as the likelihood of contracting AIDS.

The catch is, a blood test for antibody to HTLV-3 is no more an indication of future AIDS cases than is being in a room of smokers an indication that you will get lung cancer sometime in the future.

The HTLV test is nothing more than a sophisticated form of redlining. Doctors and researchers have said repeatedly that the test has no diagnostic or predictive value. They don't know what the results mean. To base actuarial tables on this newly coined pseudo-data is about as scientific as casting tea leaves. Laboratory test tubes have been substituted for crystal balls.

In California, we have some protections against abuses. But those protections are still uncertain. We hope that Mayor Dianne Feinstein will fortify that limited arsenal by signing the Maher ordinance into law.

And if you are a gay man without health or life insurance, you'd better move fast before the sky falls in. The writing is on the wall: It is going to become increasingly difficult for gay men to obtain insurance.

If insurance companies do succeed in their ultimate goal of disallowing coverage to anyone suspected of ever contracting AIDS, the entire medical cost of AIDS will be dumped on the public.

That should not be allowed to happen. Redlining in any form should be strictly prohibited. Private insurers who profit from our community should be expected to contribute in sharing the burden.

LETTERS

Whistles Work

* CUA received an 89 percent increase in reports of anti-gay violence from spring of 1985 (April - June) as compared to spring of 1984, rather than an 89 percent increase for the year as we incorrectly reported in the Nov. 14 issue of the *B.A.R.* Overall, there was a 37 percent increase from year to year in reported incidents. Our documentation not only represents the need for greater counseling, advocacy, and emergency assistance services for victims of assault, but the importance for each of us to take personal safety issues to heart. Our documentation further goes to show that whistles work!

Kevin Roe, Client Advocate
Community United Against Violence
San Francisco

Duke and Gays

* I greatly applaud Gov. George Deukmejian's plea to Reagan concerning Soviet Jewry. I also agree with him to proclaim Nov. 19 a day of solidarity for above-named Soviet Jewry. Having once been a Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany, I can obviously only congratulate the governor for his undertaking.

Now, if he'd only do the same thing for the gay population in his state, we'd really have something!

Name withheld upon request.
Oakland

Letter Policy

The Bay Area Reporter welcomes your letters to the editor.

Letters must be signed; anonymous letters will not be published. Please include your mailing address and telephone number so we may verify your letter—this information will not be published.

In order to print as many views as possible, we ask letter writers to be brief. To promote diversity in the Open Forum, we favor letters from writers who do not appear frequently, over repeated correspondence from a single author.

VIEWPOINT

A Jury of Your Peers

The fag-bashing in the O'Connell case continues. This time the venue is the Hall of Justice. This time we're all being bashed. We're being clubbed with a weapon called "jury selection." Swinging that club is the Office of the Public Defender, Jeff Brown.

The Public Defender is engaged in a systematic effort to exclude gay people from the jury. Prospective jurors are being asked about their gay identities—or even if they like gay people.

Because there are four defendants, the defense has something like 30 "peremptory challenges," which means they can 86 you just because they don't like your looks.

Men aged 20 to 50 with neatly trimmed moustaches are looking especially bad to the defense just now.

This is a Dan White jury situation all over again. I can see what's coming down from a million miles away. The Public Defender will stack the jury with Good Family Types. Then, the gay community—not the four defendants—will be put on trial.

The defense only has to hit with one juror to block a guilty verdict. They'll probably do better.

The jury won't let the defendants off the hook. What they'll do is come up with a smaller hook. I'm giving 2-1 odds these four guys will be convicted on reduced charges. Any takers?

There's this thing called the Bill of Rights and one of the rights it includes is the Right to a Jury of Your Peers. That right—like America—has grown in the last 208 years.

You have to be a voter to be a juror. In the beginning, you had to be a property owner to vote. Back then women and blacks weren't people yet. Later we got liberal and let women vote—and be jurors.

BRIAN JONES

The South held out on blacks. It wasn't until the 1960s in the South that blacks could vote. That was the big deal over the Voting Rights Act. The South wanted to keep those lily-white juries.

Times change. You can't do that anymore. Or can you? Can you imagine the defense in the San Mateo "Sex Slave" case trying to keep women off the jury? Can you imagine the defense in a case involving a black victim, keeping blacks off the jury?

No. But it's okay to bounce the fags.

There's a message here. If gays can be systematically excluded from a Jury of Your Peers, then we're not really peers. We're not equal citizens under the law. That's what is happening at the Bastille on Bryant Street.

It's just the latest twist in a case which has been painful and outrageous at every turn. But it has been instructive: brutally truthful.

The big question comes like these raise is "why?" The handling of this case answers that question.

The case was worked by the Cops for Christ, who say fags should be executed. Now the Public Defender is bouncing gays from the jury. These Keepers of the Law will protest that they aren't swinging any clubs.

They don't have to swing clubs. The thugs are getting the message. They'll swing the clubs. And then the Cops for Christ and the Public Defender will wring their hands and say "How could anybody do this?" And then I'll puke.

The biggest message which will come out of this thing is that it's not as big a deal to kill a fag as anyone else.

In the meantime, Public Defender Jeff Brown will continue to come to our parties as a Friend of the Community. God save us. This is the guy who invented "homosexual panic."

The good news is, we can still vote.

LETTERS

Gathering Crumbs from the Duchess

- In the last city election, *B.A.R.*, endorsements were identical to those of Mayor Feinstein's. This could well indicate any of the following:
 - Feinstein is either a stockholder or co-owner of *B.A.R.*, or . . .
 - The *B.A.R.* staff is either on Feinstein's payroll or are members of the Mayor Feinstein Fan Club (as evidenced by the illogical admiration that "politics write?" Wayne Friday professes for the Mayor), or . . .
 - B.A.R.* has sold out the gay community for whatever crumbs the Duchess Mayor can throw at it.

Perhaps that old cliche that "Absolute power corrupts, and power corrupts absolutely" may be applied to this scenario.

If *B.A.R.* were to disprove my remarks, then I'd be more than willing to take my lumps. Please, *B.A.R.*, say it isn't so!!!

Ed Dollak
San Francisco

ED. NOTE: It isn't so.

Ray O'Loughlin

Axes to Grind

- What little vestige of regard I have had for your publication was surely removed by the hatchet job done on Marcus Conant by Brian Jones and Ray O'Loughlin. If there is any factual basis for such a twisted shameful piece of journalism, you did not print it.

John Grimes
San Francisco

Support the Vigil

The following is a resolution by Pastor James Sandmire and the Board of Directors of the Golden Gate Metropolitan Community Church:

Whereas, the Pastor and Board of Directors of Golden Gate Metropolitan Community Church note that people with AIDS Related Conditions supported by people with AIDS and friends and relatives have mounted a vigil at the Health and Human Services Building at United Nations Plaza, San Francisco, California,

And Whereas, those on vigil have asked the Federal Government to:

- Allot one hour per year of government expenditures (\$500 million) for research, education and treatment of AIDS and AIDS-Related Conditions,
- make easily available experimental drugs and treatment for AIDS and AIDS related conditions not available in the U.S. but readily available in other countries,
- recognize AIDS-Related Conditions as an authentic medical condition and urge that those people with this condition receive disability insurance, treatment and other benefits available to people with AIDS,
- increase funds for the education of the general public about AIDS and AIDS-Related Conditions,
- oppose any efforts to discriminate in any way against people with AIDS and AIDS-Related Conditions,

Therefore, The Pastor and Board of Directors of Golden Gate Metropolitan Church support the above-mentioned vigil and their demands of the Federal Government.

We further urge our Church members and the general public support this vigil with funds, food, clothing and companionship.

We further commend our Clergy, deacons and members for offering Holy Communion each week for those of the vigil and we urge that they continue this Christian service to our sisters and brothers.

The Reverend James E. Sandmire
San Francisco

Justice

- When I read letters of sympathy for Dan White, I recalled the words of the great American patriot and freethinker, Robert Ingersoll: "Justice should remove the bandage from her eyes long enough to distinguish between the vicious and the unfortunate."

Philip Mass, President
Humanist Community of S.F.
San Francisco

Retaining Credibility

The following letter was sent to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation:

- It appears more and more that the "establishment," in general, (and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation in particular), is intent upon using the AIDS epidemic as a means of promoting abstinence, celibacy, chastity and all those other good, clean, moral things.

Instead of damning alcohol, poppers and grass (see ad in *B.A.R.*, Nov. 14) perhaps the Foundation should stress in the same size 72-point type that many over-the-counter pharmaceuticals, poor nutrition and inadequate sleep have a more profoundly adverse effect on the body's immune system than occasional, moderate use of grass, amyl nitrite or alcohol.

If the AIDS Foundation expects to retain its

credibility, it should acknowledge that advertisements like ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND AIDS are targeted primarily to those with positive HTLV-3 serology whose health needs may, indeed, require different management.

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation prides itself on being a source of accurate information. It appears, however, that the fear of AIDS is being used to encourage gay compliance with society's preferences. The Foundation could better serve our community by vigorously promoting anonymous HTLV-3 testing so that each of us might privately make our own informed decisions as to what we eat, drink and smoke.

Unfortunately, the information disseminated by the Foundation in recent weeks appears more like institutional advertising calculated to impress its principal funders rather than the gay community.

Chal Cochran
San Francisco

Hate Consumes the Soul

- At first I couldn't understand why you would print such a mindless letter as written by Gene Catalano, re: "Dan White Deserves Forgiveness."

But as I look at it now, I can understand. Homophobia is not only a straight person's disease, and those in the gay "community" (the word doesn't sour my tongue) who have it need to be exposed.

Mr. Catalano is so jealous of Harvey Milk and his accomplishments (however small he perceives them) that he will stoop to name-calling the dead. I can't understand, however, why he idolizes Dan White and tries to twist him into a gay hero, if we had given him the chance. After all Dan beat him to the trigger, didn't he?

For those he feels will attempt to tear him down, I don't think Mr. Catalano has anything to worry about. He's as low as one can get.

For his own sake, I hope Mr. Catalano can turn his hate into love before "what goes around comes around."

Hate consumes the soul, and for those who hate themselves death is better than life.

Allen Baumann
San Francisco

Not a Good Show

- Last Saturday, I attended "Pier Pressure" billed as the largest Dance Party. Well it might be the biggest, but it was hardly the best.

When I go somewhere to dance, I want to hear good music. The music at "Pier Pressure" was barely audible unless one was right next to a speaker. And the music I could distinguish was mostly that same old pretty disco that we've all heard a thousand times!

Consequently, my friend and I left after 2 hours and went to the Trocadero, (just to salvage some of the night). We both would like a ticket refund from "Men Behind Bars Productions."

Charles Hendricks
San Francisco

A Plea for Jay and Robby

Two young men, 20 and 23 respectively, who were lovers at the time of their apprehension here in San Francisco, are on death row in Oklahoma: Jay Wesley Neill (#141128) and Robert Grady Johnson (#146499).

They could use all the understanding and love our community can furnish. We might all bear in mind, as we wrestle with homophobia's fallout in the forms of depression and suicide, drug and alcohol addiction, AIDS, insatiable promiscuity, unstable love relationships, and a propensity to self-hateful attacks on one another, that but for the grace of God, we too might have gone over the edge in the *particular* manner of these two brothers living in a small and homophobic Midwest town. I remember my own small-town days.

Jay and Robby do not need preaching from us, but they do indeed, in their loneliness and isolation, need all the comfort and reassurance we can furnish them. I know them both and count them, despite what has happened, as my friends. In our hurt, all of us at times miss the mark.

They both like greeting cards, especially of cats and so forth. Jay enjoys science, and Robby likes psychology, if anyone feels inclined to have a bookstore ship them books. Both men can be addressed (with their ID numbers) at Oklahoma State Penitentiary, McAlester, Oklahoma 74501.

"I was in prison and you visited me . . . As you did it unto one of the least of these my brothers, you did it unto me."

Finally, our church would appreciate the names and addresses of any other gay men on death row who could use our special ministry. Statistics show an extremely disproportionate number of "single" and "never married" men on death rows.

Rev. Nicholas Maklary
Cyrenaican Apostolic Church
San Francisco

over 10 years experience working with gay men.

Rodney Karr,
Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist,
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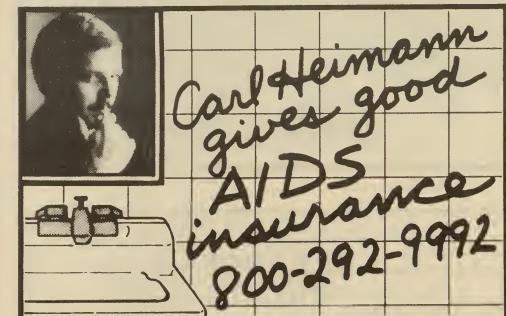
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Photo by Wasyl Szlodziensky

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To sign up call Floyd Goff at 431-3899 or Greg Smith at 552-6181.

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LETTERS

Political Intervention

The following letter was sent to Phil Ward, the Acting City Attorney of San Francisco:

★ Dear Mr. Ward:

Information provided to the press by your office indicates a substantial degree of compliance with the Court Order issued by Judge Wonder with respect to bathhouse conduct. Regardless of the merit of the restrictions imposed, the fact that the order is being substantially adhered to would indicate no need for new initiatives on your part. Such political actions would destroy the current spirit of cooperation which has permitted the businesses to operate in a responsible manner.

In addition, we see no justification for efforts by your office, the mayor, or certain supervisors to legislate bathhouse closure. Such political intervention is unwarranted, unwise, and will further increase tensions between the city administration and those citizens it is alleging to "protect."

Tim Brace, Chair
Committee to Preserve
Our Sexual and Civil Liberties
San Francisco

A Letter to Harvey Milk

★ Dear Harvey,

I am that boy from San Juan, Puerto Rico, and I'm glad you once recruited me. San Juan, Puerto Rico, may not have the middle-American ring, but once too, it would have sentenced me to ridicule and despair or to that awful, horrible and dismal silence.

Today, on the seventh year of your departure, I cherish your sweet indoctrination. Four thousand miles distant and without having set an eye on me, you grabbed me from my street, registered me into the ranks and showed me freedom and gave me hope. Today also, one week from the anniversary of that day, I wish I had met you. Your absence from this city is often too keen.

Seven years, Harvey, and the issues have not changed. Oh, for some out there—and out there is always someone willing to say or do anything, even among our brothers and sisters—gay rights are out and a whole new drama is in. I don't think so. The show might have moved to a new place and might boast a reshuffled script, retouched props and a revamped cast. It even has a grim new actor, a fateful disease that almost seems skillfully engineered by the wildest fantasy of a faggot hater. It's still basically the same old show. And to the former list of the casualties upon the stage, now add thousands of men cut short of their best years. Seven years ago, we fought in order to live. Today we fight in order not to die.

You said never to rely upon the kindness of strangers. What is due to us, like our right to live, will never be given freely, it has to be taken. You are at right now as then, Harvey.

We might "clean up our act" and "modify our lifestyles," as many of us have. We might practice safe sex, as many of us do. We might show to the world what good boys we are now, as a few have tried. Yet our friends, our lovers, all of us, will keep on dying and the kind strangers will keep on expressing their sympathies and medical research will keep to its geological timetable and the Straight Slayers of the world will keep on advancing their concentration camp strategy and Dianne Feinstein will keep on smiling her very tight smile until some time she has to declare Gay Freedom Day. We have to get out there, by the thousands that are, and stomp our feet and DEMAND. On our part, the battle against AIDS is primarily a political battle.

When they put up that plaque for you Wednesday night, people will bring the names of friends and lovers who have fallen to AIDS. You would have seized the occasion with your accustomed sense of drama. Full media coverage for an endless procession under the candlelight, each person solemnly pasting to one wall of the plaza a slip of paper bearing a name. Defacing public property? The greater the statement, then!

And the growing names would remain to remind us every morning as we go to work and maybe even incite us to action one day. Such a paper memorial to our AIDS dead would be much more like you than a mere metal plaque. And we would have remembered your lesson well: we cannot go back to the days without hope, Harvey. Your people still love you.

Ahmed Gonzalez-Nunez
San Francisco

Aping Patrick Henry

★ Just think how nice this world would have been if Caesar had been more diligent and fed more and yet more of those Christians to the lions. And they, piously indignant, will shout "cruelty" when the most hated symbol on earth in the history of man has been the symbol of the Christian Church. For about 1,800 years that symbol has been used to beat down any sexual group.

I will not take your space to name the groups that have been sacrificed on the altar either in the name of health, safety, nationality or piety. So the sacrificial Persons with AIDS is merely a very small group, but the homosexuals they represent have grown far too powerful not to attract the attention of the sanctimonious sermonizers of the man from Tarsus, Paul.

And it is not only the Christians who are now building statistics to put homosexuals behind bars, it is the followers of the Tribe of Levi. Between the medical profession of these two religious groups there is a whirlwind of talk to put all those who are either AIDS afflicted or AIDS positive in the same PW cages that held

the Japanese during World War II.

All those who cooperated with these groups might be wearing the newer version of the pink triangle, but in positions of power and prestige. It was the same with the people who faced the Nazis, those who cooperated were in positions of power and prestige and were at the end of the line-up for the furnaces. Those who survived might well be called "survivors" in more ways than one. And so it will be with us.

The time is past when you can think of your government as a friend, in fact at no time should one think of the government as a friend. The Fathers knew that government was an evil, but to secure certain rights, government was instituted among men. But Lord Acton, oft-quoted, was speaking of the CDC and the San Francisco Health Department when he said, "Power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely."

Any rational person of average or better intelligence knows that taking away a place of sexual assignation has nothing to do with the incidence of sexual activity. And closing the baths was very possibly the worst thing that could have been done to stop the increase of AIDS. From a place where people could go and see the body of a potential sex partner, take a shower, and wash after, to the grimy, dark, filthy, shit-encrusted alternatives might be a good idea to our lovelorn Mayor and Empty Headed Health Director, but any person of average or better intelligence without any religious ax to grind would opt for the baths any day.

Now I have no intention whatsoever in changing my sex activities. I have gone to prison for them once and if necessary will go again. I will take my place among the pink triangles and probably ape Patrick Henry.

Will all those who have had a great experience in fellatio with a condom please raise their hand?

Guy Straight
San Francisco

The Sexual Guilt of Straights

★ Increasingly, it is becoming difficult to differentiate among the Church, the State and the Press as to their respective views on sexuality, particularly homosexuality. Formerly, at least in San Francisco, we could count on the continuing persecution of the Church, the enlightened humanitarianism of City Hall, and the intelligent objectivity of the Press. This is no longer the case. All three Estates are actively engaged in a policy of sexual vilification against the gay community. One asks, to what end? Is all this activity really motivated by a desire to save us from the ravages of AIDS? I think not. Rather, AIDS is being used as an excuse to pursue and promote homophobic feelings in the public.

The Church which began to consider the possibility of homosexual monogamous unions has now retrenched to a position of total celibacy. William E. Swing, the Episcopal Bishop of California, in answer to the question, "If a cure were found, what would be a healthy life-style for a homosexual Christian," says, "Presently there appears to be one Church recommendation, i.e. celibacy." The Bishop further writes that the only alternative is "promiscuity."

There is no longer any mention of approved unions, just theological castration.

This morning the *San Francisco Chronicle* contained a letter to the editor from one Lee Wiley of Soquel in which he equates whorehouses with bathhouses. Now the editors know the difference, even if Mr. Wiley doesn't. Are they hoping to stimulate reader interest only or is this another vile little dig in what appears to be a serious anti-homosexual policy being mounted by the *San Francisco Chronicle*. I say serious because tens of thousands of gay men and lesbians subscribe to, read, and respond to the advertisements in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and this appears to have no effect on editorial policy. Is that edifice at Fifth and Mission really a bastion of pure and undefiled monogamous heterosexuality whose members would never enter the depraved portals of a massage parlor or engage in a lunch hour of pleasurable promiscuity?

One may but just mention the Second Crusade being mounted by the Lady Dianne against the gay infidels who occupy her City and demand sexual equality. Who in the hell do we think we are, asking for the same rights as the heterosexuals in the Church, the State and the Press? God, but one tires of being a scapegoat for the sexual guilt of the straights.

Martin F. Stow
San Francisco

Cowtown Blues

★ Now that it's in the news again, that overgrown cowtown called Houston is a laugh-and-a-half.

Why any gay and/or straight would want to live there is beyond me.

I had the displeasure of taking one of those midnight plane trips to Chicago via Houston.

If the airport is any indication of what life is like in the nation's "fourth largest city," heaven help us. Good God, the personnel personified by the cattle herd at IAH [the airport code] is beyond belief. Rude, crude and yes, tattooed, they exemplify the redneck philosophy to the zenith.

Give me liberty or anything but Houston.

Speaking of cows, when are you going to put Sweet Lips to pasture? And get rid of those dumb fuck and suck ads in the "rear" of your otherwise good (sometimes) rag?

Bill Saari
San Francisco



POLITICS AND POKER

Best of the Pack

US. Rep. Ed Zschau, the best of the pack running for the GOP U.S. Senate nomination, attacked the Right Wing's "Moral Majority agenda" while addressing Republicans here last week. If the GOP really wants Sen. Alan Cranston's seat, they should get behind Zschau. And why are the gay Republicans so slow in backing him?

And why are the gay Republicans so damned silent on Rep. Bill Dannemeyer and L.A. Sup. Mike Antonovich and their anti-gay remarks?

Talk of people in trouble — a recent poll by the respected Teichner outfit shows that only 30 percent of Californians knew who Chief Justice Rose Bird is. Of those who knew, 32 percent oppose her, while 27 percent favored her.

A huge turn-out at Tuesday night's reception honoring District Attorney Arlo Smith at Trader Vic's.

USA Today last week on Harvey Milk: "He spent his life being upfront and proud about his sexual preference. He knew the strength of gay pride and politics came from men and women who were unafraid. His election gave many in the Bay Area's large gay community a reason to feel safe and more secure, but this untraditional politician appealed to all the disenfranchised for support."

Next Wednesday, Nov. 27, marks the seventh anniversary of the assassinations of Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone. A candlelight memorial march is scheduled for that evening starting at 7:30 at Harvey Milk Plaza, Castro and Market Streets.

Ronald Squires, an openly-gay party worker, was elected recently as vice-chair of the Vermont state Democratic party . . . And in Wisconsin, Earl Bricker, a gay man who once served as a field director for the Wisconsin Democratic party, has been named as a full-time liaison to the gay and lesbian community by Gov. Anthony Earl.

Speaking of gays, lesbians and the Democratic party, Milk Club president Rick Pacurra deserves a word of praise for standing up to national Demo Chair Paul Kirk who was in town last week. Kirk, who has dumped the gay and lesbian caucus (as well as other minority caucuses) from party representation, apparently

wanted no part of Pacurra, who told the party boss that he was making a big mistake by brushing off gays.

Those who know about legal things tell me that Marc Christian, Rock Hudson's former lover, just might have a strong case in his highly-publicized lawsuit. Christian is suing the late actor's estate and his doctors, claiming that they lied to him and/or conspired to hide the fact that Hudson had AIDS. Christian, claiming to have been Hudson's lover for the past two years, says the late actor learned of his AIDS illness in June, 1984, but didn't inform Christian until July, 1985.

I missed this one, but they tell me that Dennis Collins, Duke Armstrong, and the others who put on the successful party at the mayor's digs last weekend for the Gay Freedom Day Band, pulled off one of the better parties of the year.

Barbara Boxer and Sala Burton are among those Congress-members being honored by the Raoul Wallenberg Jewish Demo Club at their First Annual Awards Dinner Dec. 7 at the Mark Hopkins (\$100 per person, cocktails 6:15, dinner at 7:30; call Steve Walters at 641-8965 for tickets and info).

California Supreme Court Justice Stanley Mosk told the *Bay Area Reporter* this week that he has still "not decided" whether he'll stand for re-election next year and says he won't make up his mind until after the first of the year. Mosk, a 73-year-old Democrat with 20 years on the court, had said earlier this year that rather than face a bitter campaign, he might retire instead of seeking another 12-year term on the state high court.

What's this? From The Hague in the Netherlands, comes word that the Dutch Parliament will propose in February of next year that the age of sexual consent there be lowered from 16 to 12 years of age. Under the proposed legislation, it would be legal for adults to have sex with minors as young as 12, provided the minor had not been coerced or seduced with gifts or promises, a Dutch Justice Ministry spokeswoman said last week (are you reading this Falwell?).

And speaking of the Right (?) Reverend Jerry — ending a two-day visit last week to Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos, the self-

appointed foreign policy expert called the Philippines "A paradise," adding that Filipinos enjoy a never-before known "freedom, thanks to the family of President Marcos." Falwell even told Filipinos, "I don't think any fair-minded person can deny the fact that had it not been for the Marcos family, the chances are that the freedoms you now enjoy would not be here."

While praising the Marcos regime, however, the Moral Majority leader was hearing from home that even the Reagan administration is looking with distrust at the election Marcos has called for Jan. 17. Only this week both the White House and the U.S. Congress was warning the Philippine dictator that unless the forthcoming presidential election is visibly "free and fair," Ferdinand and Imelda risk "losing all support both at home in his own country and certainly in the United States."

Actress Gena Rowland, who played the mother on the highly successful *An Early Frost* last week on NBC, has recorded a 30-second AIDS public service announcement that is being made available to all network affiliates.

Rep. Tony Coelho, one of the brightest in the House, tells reporters that the Democrats will take control of the Senate next year (few takers on that bet, however). Coelho says "religious people in the 'New Right' are going to do the Republicans what some of the less attractive people in Big Labor did to us — only it will be worse for the Republicans." Coelho, who represents California's 15th District, running from Modesto to Fresno, expects to one day be the Speaker of the House, and few who know him think he's wrong. He is clearly the frontrunner to be the next Demo House Whip.

Don't feel too sorry for political "has-beens" Gerry Ford

WAYNE FRIDAY



Harvey Milk and George Moscone.

and Jeanne Kirkpatrick. The two GOP stars received \$20,000 each when they appeared at Republican fundraiser dinners in Southern California last month.

A bill requiring test for exposure to the AIDS virus for marriage license applicants has been introduced in the New York legislature. Those with positive tests could get married if the disease is not in communicable stage. The ACLU is opposing the proposal, calling it "blatantly unconstitutional."

AIDS cases have now been reported in every state with this week's diagnosis of a case in Idaho (the 14,739 cases reported since January, 1979, have resulted in 7,545 deaths).

Incidentally, Viacom (cable channel 6) will re-run their successful AIDS Update '85 special tonight, Nov. 21, starting at 9:30 p.m. The two hour program will feature the show originally

run on Oct 21, and it's two hours you shouldn't miss.

Ginny Foat says she never wanted to write about herself and her years as a battered wife and accused murderer (then why did she?), but she is busily hawking her recent book *Never Guilty, Never Free*. Foat says she lectures for a living, lives in the Bay Area with two female housemates, and is still bitter that NOW didn't support her publicly. She has, in fact, filed a multimillion-dollar lawsuit against Shelly Mandell, the NOW rival Foat blames for precipitating her arrest by telling the cops about her questionable past.

Chris Bowman was chosen new president of Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights (CRIR) Monday night. Kenn Knight and Marty Keller were elected vice-presidents of the Republican club. ■

Director Named to NYC Gay Center

Herb Simon has been selected as the first executive director of the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center of New York City. Simon, 55, was formerly an assistant commissioner in New York City's Department of Social Services.

"After an eight-month search, we are very pleased to have found someone of Mr. Simon's managerial talents and caring concern for the community," said Irving Cooperberg, president of the Center's board of directors.

The Center was established in Dec., 1984. Housed in a former high school building in Greenwich Village, the Center provides facilities for six tenant groups and over 100 other lesbian and gay organizations and sponsors a wide range of educational, cultural and social activities.

Simon's appointment is for one year. His responsibilities include directing and coordinating the Center's programs and operations. ■

Prior to his position with New York City, Simon worked for the New York State government for 23 years during which he served for a year with the U.S. Agency for International Development as a computer advisor to the government of Turkey. He is a 1952 B.A. graduate of Colby College and has done graduate work in public administration at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. ■



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ON THE OFF BEAT

MIKE HIPPLER

Wrapping Up "Unfinished Business"



Doug Holsclaw and Ellen Brook Davis, two performers from the AIDS Show.
(Photo: Rink)

Normally I don't do theater reviews. But every now and then a show comes along that is so wonderful it deserves all the recognition it can get, and I gladly devote my column to that purpose. *Unfinished Business: The New AIDS Show*, which recently completed a remarkably successful run at Theater Rhinoceros, is such a show.

Those who saw it witnessed an intensely moving theatrical production they will not soon forget. Those who didn't need not despair, for they will certainly be able to catch the show in one incarnation or another, either here or elsewhere, for some time to come.

Is there anyone who still doesn't know of the show's origins? If so, the idea which gave birth to *The AIDS Show* began with Allan Estes, the late founder of Theater Rhinoceros.

Estes wanted to bring some kind of street theater focusing on the AIDS crisis to the delegates of last summer's Democratic Convention.

He applied to the city for a grant. The grant came through, but in the meantime Estes himself was diagnosed with AIDS and died within a couple of months. The project then fell temporarily into the hands of Kris Gannon, the artistic director of Theater Rhinoceros, who searched through files and came up with the name of Leland Moss.

Moss, an actor and director formerly based in New York, agreed to carry on with Estes' idea but decided to abandon the street theater concept in favor of the kind of theater that could be done anywhere — bars, baths, hospitals, schools. He also decided to make the project a collaborative creative effort.

After advertising in the gay papers and pulling names from the Theater Rhinoceros files, Moss came up with a group of twenty people, mostly actors and writers, who worked for about a month creating the original *AIDS Show*.

At the end of that month, September 1984, Moss's group presented the show — a disparate collection of skits, monologues, vignettes, and song and dance numbers, each written by individual authors and united by a loose framework — to prospective booking agents at Theater Rhinoceros for four nights.

Then they pulled back to consider what they had. After re-casting and revamping, the company performed from November to February in the basement of Theater Rhinoceros, from April to May at Project Artaud, and during Gay Pride Week at San Francisco Repertory. They also performed bits and pieces of the show at various community bookings, and twice they took the show on the road — to San Diego in February and to Boston in June.

Throughout this time, the show's reputation grew, largely through word-of-mouth. It took a while, but people began to hear that this was a show worth seeing, a truly remarkable theatrical experience. Community pressure to see the show was so great that after the run at San Francisco Rep, the company decided to create a new version of the show.

Thus was born *Unfinished Business: The New AIDS Show*, which opened in October for a

six-week run back at Rhino, this time with a new co-director, Doug Holsclaw, one of the original contributors and performers.

From the beginning, the creators of *The AIDS Show* and its sequel knew that they wanted to produce something different. "We didn't want to make it seem like a public service announcement," says Moss, "with issue-oriented scenes, a message, and a resolution. Instead, we wanted humor."

Although the nature of the subject they were dealing with was both frightening and controversial, Moss, Holsclaw, and the group knew that if they could make people laugh, they might help them confront their fears and worries. They also allowed room for anger and sadness, however. The smorgasbord nature of the show ensured that.

Although the show was created mainly by gay people with a gay audience in mind, the directors feel that straight people can benefit from it as well, and they have made a special effort to reach the straight community by including heterosexual points of view in the show.

Pieces added when *The AIDS Show* became *Unfinished Business*, for instance, include a monologue by a straight nurse working with AIDS patients, as well as one by the mother of a gay person with AIDS.

"Gay people get more in touch with their emotions," says Moss. "But straight people can get an enormous education through the show."

For the most part, the show has received rave reviews from audiences everywhere. Some of the most enthusiastic reactions have come from audiences in other cities, oddly enough. "The reception in San Diego was fabulous," says Holsclaw, "and they went wild in Boston."

Adds Moss, "Audiences in other cities are generally very responsive even though the show relies heavily on San Francisco locales. Because we are so

specific, it makes the show more honest and true."

Interestingly, people with AIDS seem to react equally as favorably to the show as people without AIDS, according to the directors. They add that the two groups tend to react to different parts of it in different ways.

"One of my friends with AIDS told me that he laughed at all the 'wrong' times," relates Holsclaw, "but he was never offended."

Asks Moss, "Why should he be? Any minority is empowered by seeing themselves portrayed on stage. We do not stereotype people with AIDS or minimize them. We only try to be as honest as possible."

Although there are no people with AIDS presently working on the show, some have contributed to it in the past. The show's conclusion, for instance, includes part of a speech by AIDS activist Dan Turner.

Much more detached from the show than people in the audience, with or without AIDS, are the critics. True, many reviews have been favorable, including the reviews by the gay press in Boston, which were the best yet — "and most insightful," says Holsclaw. But one reviewer for a major Boston paper was offended by the camping, the humor, and the earthy sexuality in the show.

"He ignored the context in which the show was created," says Moss.

Many reviewers in San Francisco have ignored it altogether, even though the show received a Cable Car Award as the Outstanding Theater Production of 1984 as well as a Certificate of Honor from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. The Bay Guardian, a progressive paper one might assume would sympathize with the show's aims and values, wouldn't even include the show in its entertainment listings.

This does not daunt the show's directors, who merely shrug and take comfort in the tremendous popular support for the

(Continued on next page)



David Sondras, Jr., and Harry Britt.

(Photo: Rink)

Hippler

(Continued from previous page)

show. That support continues to grow at on-going community performances, such as the recent performances at San Francisco State and the Water Garden Bath in San Jose. Soon the company will be taking the show on the road to Fresno. They would like to take it even further. But all this takes money and a great deal of work.

"We try to finance the show when we take it on the road by getting people in the town we're visiting to pay our way there," says Holsclaw. "In Boston, the AIDS Action Committee raised money to pay our way there. Then the gay hotels donated rooms and the gay restaurants donated meals. In San Diego we

stayed in people's homes. Now we are working on New Orleans, where there is government money set aside for AIDS education which the community wants to spend on us."

Whether or not *Unfinished Business* ever gets to New Orleans, what it has already done for the gay community is substantial. Since its inception, it has continually fulfilled its stated purpose — "to empower and enlighten in a theatrically vital manner."

Armistead Maupin says it better. "The AIDS Show somehow manages the miraculous," he wrote, "It tackles our community's most painful fact of life in a manner that is candid, humane, and frequently hilarious. I promise you, you'll leave feeling better than you did when you arrived."

I certainly felt better when I left, and I am not easily moved anymore. If you have the chance, see it. You won't be sorry. ■

M. Hippler

GUEST COLUMN

Rock the Boat

by David Sondras

Martin Luther King told us that just as power without compassion is evil, compassion without power is meaningless.

Dr. King's message has a special significance for gay and lesbian people in Massachusetts today because a majority of Massachusetts state representatives voted recently to allow continued discrimination against gay and lesbian people.

All our legitimate pleas for justice, all our compelling arguments for compassion did not prevent an 88-65 vote in the Massachusetts House to permit continued discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodation based on sexual orientation. We must ask ourselves why legislators would vote to retain irrational prejudice as a public policy.

First, let's understand that it is not because of a lack of education. For years the legislators have been bombarded with pamphlets and brochures, quiet lobbying sessions, and other "outreach" efforts. But just as it was not congressional "ignorance" that stalled civil rights legislation in the 1960s, it is not a lack of information that blocks gay rights in Massachusetts today.

Legislators know that anti-gay bigotry is a reality. They have ears to hear the blatherings of their more vociferously anti-gay colleagues. They have eyes to read the graffiti that adorns even the State House. They know that gay and lesbian people's chances for equal treatment in seeking a job or apartment or the same basic rights accorded their straight counterparts are often jeopardized.

And it is not virulent homophobia that prevents many legislators from voting to outlaw anti-gay discrimination. Few in the Massachusetts House are so motivated by sheer bigotry as Representative Switzler who has called gay people inherently immoral and "a threat to the well-being of children."

The reason gay rights can be defeated in Massachusetts is simply because of a lack of real gay power.

Clearly, education, outreach, and appeals to basic justice are important pieces to any plan for gay rights legislation. But for over ten years these pieces by themselves have failed. It is clearer than ever that what is

needed is gay power, power that will lend meaning to our case for compassion and strength to our struggle for justice.

Continued protest and vocal, direct confrontation with the governor this summer caused him to try to distance himself from his anti-gay foster care decision, pressured him to finally find some AIDS funding, and pushed him to at last say the word "gay" on television. We need to continue and expand that same "rock-the-boat" strategy.

Of course, there are those among us not ready to take this step, those who caution "restraint" and "moderation."

Discussing the pressing need for gay liberation with Berkeley, California Mayor Gus Newport, Councilor Bruce Bolling remembered a time when "upstart" blacks were told they were asking for "too much, going too far."

People who wring their hands and worry that we might alienate some law makers miss the obvious point: *they are already alienated*. They are never going to vote with us because we are so "nice." Our ultimate goal in initiating gay rights legislation is, after all, not so we act more "respectable" or learn how to "fit in," but to protect ourselves from homophobia.

Unfortunately, many of us are so numb by our own pain that we have lost touch with the oppression that confronts us everyday. We must allow ourselves to feel what we feel, to act as we want, to cease being our oppressors apologists.

Nor should we make the disingenuous argument that gay rights has nothing to do with foster care decisions or AIDS policy.

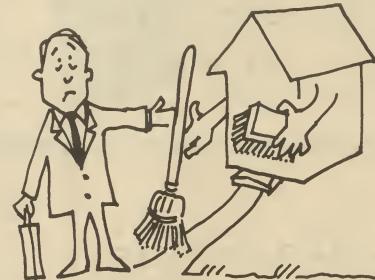
Can you imagine black political leaders saying that the state administration's decision that all black parents are not as loving or worthy as white parents had nothing to do with civil rights? Can you imagine female political leaders saying that denying women employment because of fear they might need maternity leave or develop breast cancer had nothing to do with equal rights for women?

Of course not.

Discrimination because of state policy or the current AIDS hysteria are compelling reasons for protection. Saying they are irrelevant is saying that we are fighting for a meaningless bill.

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(Continued on page 13)



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NATIONAL/WORLD NEWS



The policy 'will guarantee that when people test positive they will not be honest with health officials about how they may have come in contact with the virus.'

—Jeff Levi

Pentagon Plans Power Play Against Gays, 'Experimenters'

WASHINGTON—Sources in Washington said late last week that the Pentagon plans on using a testing program for AIDS which will help it eliminate gays from military service.

The sources said less-than-desirable dismissals will be meted out to two types of individuals. Those who admit during AIDS screenings that they have had any type of gay sex will be discharged. Those individuals will also be expected to provide "lists" of the individuals with whom they have had sex.

Lt. Col. Peter Wyro claims that those people who are gay or have had gay sex will be guaranteed an honorable discharge whether on the grounds of medical disability or "for the convenience of the government."

However, Wyro says the same thing might not happen to those individuals who are on the "lists." Those people could face general or bad

conduct discharges under some Pentagon regulations or a court martial.

However, Wyro's interpretation of the policy may be in error. The main guarantee of those portions of the policy made public is that no actions will be taken under the Uniform Code of Military Justice against persons who reveal homosexuality during interviews.

Jeff Levi, legislative director of the National Gay Task Force, said Wyro confirmed suspicions of gay leaders that the AIDS screening would be used to remove gay men and lesbians from the service.

The policy, "will guarantee that when people test positive they will not be honest with health officials about how they may have come in contact with the virus," according to Levi.

—The Washington Blade

Weiss Pushes Medicare Benefits For AIDS Victims

WASHINGTON—New York Congressman Ted Weiss hopes new legislation he is proposing will shorten by two years the amount of time it takes for an AIDS patient to receive Medicare benefits. Weiss introduced the bill on Oct. 22. The Capitol Hill action, if passed, would also make it possible for Medicare to cover the costs of some experimental treatments for AIDS.

This isn't the first time Weiss has introduced this kind of legislation. In 1983, he tried to get a similar bill through Congress, but it didn't see any action. As one Weiss aide pointed out, AIDS cases have increased from 4,000 to 14,000 since then and the New York representative hopes his new bill will "generate attention and congressional action" from his colleagues.

Weiss said the Center for Disease Control estimates the average cost of an AIDS patient's hospital needs alone to be \$140,000.

"This staggering medical bill does not include expenses for outpatient nursing and home health care," according to Weiss.

Of the 14,288 people with AIDS, 4,600 had applied for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)/Medicare nationwide. A total of 4,400 were designated as eligible.

—The Washington Blade

Miss. Police Raid AIDS Benefit

MERIDIEN, Miss.—Members of this city's police department made a raid on a gay club and arrested four performers during an AIDS benefit. Eddie Sandifer, executive director of the Mississippi Gay Alliance, said the raid of the nightclub, Talk of the Town, smacked of "Gestapo tactics."

Shortly after midnight, police slipped into the Talk of the Town and arrested four men, charging them with violation of an ordinance which bans dressing in clothing inappropriate to one's sex. According to Meriden Mayor Jimmy Kemp, the city had "to enforce the ordinances and the laws passed down by the council. I don't believe there's been selective enforcement by anybody in the administration [a charge made by Sandifer]. I didn't direct it, and I don't believe anybody else did."

However, the top officer for the state's American Civil Liberties Union, disagreed with Kemp.

"It seems to me that this bar has been operating without disturbance for some time," said Hillary Chiz, "and why the Meriden police would choose to go in at a time when they were having a legitimate benefit, I don't know."

—The Weekly News of Miami

Gay Teacher in Pic; Loses Houston Job

HOUSTON—A gay Houston schoolteacher lost his job because of a picture taken of him and another gay man which appeared in one of the city's magazines.

Patrick diBattista, vice president for community affairs of the Houston AIDS Foundation, has been involuntarily relieved of his teaching assignments at Houston's Kashmere High School. He has been reassigned to a non-teaching position in the Houston Independent School District.

diBattista's picture had appeared in the October edition of *Houston City* magazine. In the photo, diBattista had his arm around another man. diBattista was roundly criticized by a Houston television reporter for having his arms around the other man. diBattista does not have AIDS.

The reporter, Marvin Zindler, still is critical of diBattista, but he also maintained that the Houston school district was

wrong in re-assigning the teacher.

DiBattista said he is contemplating a lawsuit. If this occurs, Zindler will be named as a defendant.

—The Montrose Voice of Houston

Gay Man, Youths Charge Honchos With Harassment

NEW YORK—Two New York public officials find themselves in the middle of a controversy which involves gay civil rights and the rights of youths.

A gay man, two women, their two sons, and six other youths ranging in the age of 11-18 years old, have filed a federal civil rights suit charging Manhattan South Precinct officer Robert Maginnis, Bronx Assistant District Attorney Marianne Jennings and other state and city officials with harassment and denial of first amendment rights.

The suit is a reaction to a January criminal court grand jury indictment of a gay man, Ed Bagarozzi, who allegedly had sex with youths. Bagarozzi was found guilty after two of the youths claimed he had sex with them.

However, a report on the New York Independent Network News (INN) uncovered a contradiction to the original court story. INN interviewed the two accusing youths, who recanted their original court testimony. Bagarozzi claims the two youths were repeatedly harassed by Maginnis. Bagarozzi also claims that Maginnis removed one of the youths from school approximately 13 times for up to five hours each time, without the knowledge of the parents. Bagarozzi said the youth was threatened with arrest and incarceration in a juvenile detention center, and that the other seven youths received similar threats.

—Gay Community News of Boston

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And The Band Plays On . . .

Scores of music lovers were drawn to last Friday's special soiree-fundraiser for the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band. But the main attraction quickly became the new home of Mayor Dianne Feinstein, who hosted the lavish affair together with Sup. John Molinari.

Partygoers were given free run of the opulent mayoral residence on Presidio Terrace to ogle the elegant digs of the city's chief executive. And ogle they did, peeking into the mayoral boudoir and some even trying for a glimpse into Her Honor's closet.

In the meantime, funds were raised for the Band Foundation to pursue its musical mission. *Keep the Music Alive in '85* was the theme of the evening.

But not all was frivolity as Mayor Feinstein honored the band by paying tribute to its late founder, Jon Sims. Feinstein told of her warm relationship with and respect for Sims. Sims died of AIDS in July 1984.

The Band Foundation supports the marching band and Twirling Corps, City Swing, Tap Troupe and the Flag Corps.

Shown here (top) are Mayor Feinstein, her husband Richard Blum (l.) and Sup. John Molinari. B.A.R. publisher Bob Ross is with Mrs. Louise Molinari (center). Mayor Feinstein presents a commemorative citation to Band Foundation president Duke Armstrong.

All Photos: R. Pruzan



Health

(Continued from page 1)

Foster also pointed out that a draft of the statewide plan due Nov. 8 has not yet been completed. "It's clear, very clear," he told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "that in the Deukmejian administration, as in the Reagan administration, health care is not a priority."

Stan Hadden, an aide to state Sen. David Roberti (D-LA), said, "The (state) health department has delayed implementation of prevention programs by not issuing checks. There are contract agencies that were approved in July who have received no money yet." He mentioned Berkeley's Pacific Center as one of the agencies affected by the delays.

Earlier this year, Dr. Kenneth Kizer, director of DHS, promised at least \$1.5 million for AIDS education in the Bay Area alone.

According to Ed Mendoza, assistant deputy director of Health Services, there has been no delay in issuing checks for contracts. He said that of the 28 contracts for AIDS education throughout the state (totalling \$4.2 million), 11 had been signed, 11 more were awaiting signatures by contract agencies, and six had had checks issued.

"State rules and regulations require we go through a process," Mendoza said. "We turned around these contracts faster than usual. I don't know what we could have done differently."

Other problems were mentioned as well by DIIIS critics. On the issue of experimental drug therapies, Larry Bush, an aide to Assemblyman Art Agnos (D-SF), said that it is legal for Medi-Cal to pay for clinical treatments with

experimental drugs. The federal government re-imbursement states for half those costs, he said.

Bush described such a treatment for the blindness associated with a common AIDS disease. But, he said, "They (Medi-Cal) won't pay for it." The state of New York, he pointed out, was already paying for such treatments.

Foster proposed that California adopt a system similar to New York's State AIDS Institute as a "more appropriate" form of dealing with the AIDS epidemic.

Citing bureaucratic snafus as one reason for delays in AIDS planning, Foster said, "The administration has made it im-

possible for department heads to even talk to one another. A separate agency needs to be created."

According to Hadden, "it's not just AIDS that's a problem over there (DHS). There's a lack of morale and a real lack of leadership." He characterized the Deukmejian administration as a "do nothing administration" on health issues.

"I am not confident in placing this epidemic in their hands," said Foster. "Maybe these hearings will result in heat being brought to bear to get Health Services to act," he added.

Last week's hearings were part of a series being held throughout

California by the Strategic Planning Commission. Enacted by the Legislature earlier this year, the commission will report directly to the governor and the Legislature on its findings.

At the Public Policy Committee hearings, the issue of bathhouse closure also came up.

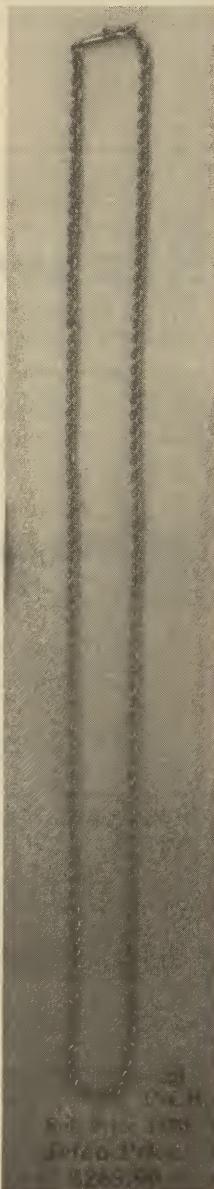
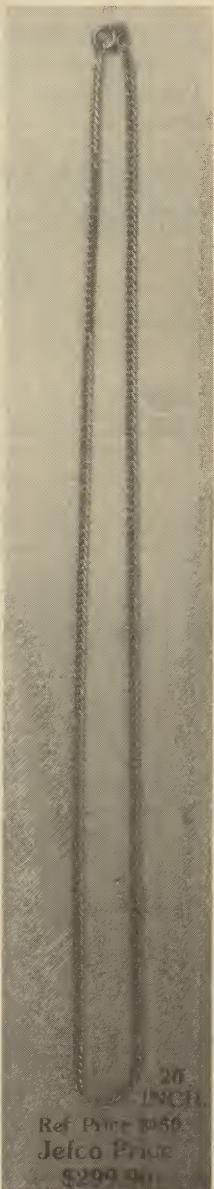
Randy Stallings, of the Committee to Preserve Our Sexual and Civil Rights, told the committee that bathhouses and other commercial sex establishments "should not be in the purview of state government." He urged that these "gathering places for our community should be protected." He said they could be useful sources of education.

John Waters, of the Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic, told the committee, "drug users are expected to be the source of many new AIDS cases in the next year." He said that the HTLV-3 virus is present among drug users and that in San Francisco an overwhelming number (97 percent) share needles.

Speaking on discrimination against people with AIDS, Paul Boneberg, of the Mobilization Against AIDS, urged the committee to "be bold since we can't expect any bold recommendations from the Department of Health Services, especially on discrimination." ■

R. O'Loughlin

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NOW

Sierra

(Continued from page 3)

When asked why it was so important to win the club's approval for what the gay and lesbian club members were already doing, Krefting responded, "It will change our status because we'll be able to reach out to more people in the Sierra Club newsletter and tri-monthly schedule. And our members, on outings, will be covered by liability insurance."

Ellis also talked about the footwork the gays and lesbians are doing to win this election in the Bay Area chapter. "We have four candidates who are pro (gay) and six who are anti. We're sending out a 5,000 piece mass mailing to all members in the Castro and Haight. We're also sending out 300 mailings to members we've identified as gay."

The election is being held by mail throughout the month of November. Ballots will be counted in early December. Already gays and lesbians in cities as far away as New York, Chicago and Los Angeles have been contacting Ellis and Krefting seeking information on setting up their own gay and lesbian activity sections.

It's especially important for gay and lesbian Sierra Club members to vote in this election, according to Krefting. Anyone with questions about the election or the lesbian and gay activity section effort can call Steven Krefting at 552-8456. ■

C. Linebarger

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Casting A Long Shadow Across Gay Lives

National Law Enforcement Groups Begin to Take the Issue Seriously

by Jay Newquist

Anti-gay and lesbian violence may be an established fact of life to its victims, reports the National Gay Task Force (NGTF), but that reality hasn't yet dawned on officialdom across the U.S.

A recent NGTF survey of some 2,074 gay men and lesbian women in eight American cities found that 90 percent of the respondents reported some form of victimization.

Most respondents agreed such harassment was so prevalent that they feared for their future safety.

"We must establish outside the gay community that anti-gay/lesbian violence exists and is well documented," said Kevin Berrill, a project coordinator for the NGTF survey conducted in June, 1984.



The 24 Divisadero: a troublesome bus for gay people
(Photo: Rink)

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CHIROPRACTIC OUTLOOK

By DR. RICK PETTIT

TIRDED LEGS

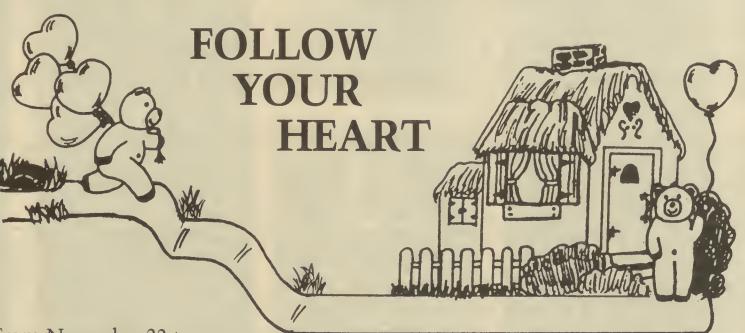
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We need funds to recruit, train and supervise emotional and practical support volunteers who provide counseling, friendship, cooking, cleaning and transportation services. Our Residence Program needs additional funding to assure a safe and stable home for people with AIDS.

Because it matters that we help our brothers and sisters affected by this epidemic...because we need to make it possible for them to live with dignity, peace, and love, please be ready to follow your heart and give generously.

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Berrill said last week in New York that "we have our work cut out for us" to provide hard data that will convince organizations like the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and the National Institute of Justice that violence casts a long dark shadow across the lives of gay men and lesbian women.

Many skeptical organizations ask for documentation that such violence exists and Berrill said the latest data of the NGTF survey revealed that:

- One in five men and one in ten women had been physically assaulted;
- One-third were verbally abused by relatives because of their sexual orientation.
- 17 percent saw their property damaged.
- 83 percent anticipated future victimization.

Berrill said that NGTF had also changed its focus from mere documentation of the problem to attempting to convince the doubters there really was a fire beneath all that smoke.

"We're trying to promote efforts by official agencies to do their own documentation," Berrill said. "We won't see an adequate improvement in the situation until these statistics reach the national level," he added.

"It's real important to say we'll knock on every door," he commented.

Berrill said he hoped tentative steps by officialdom would be fulfilled, including hearings about anti-gay violence next year by the House Judiciary Committee.

An overture was also made to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and it agreed to encourage its state advisory committees to study anti-gay violence from a justice perspective.

The National Institute of Justice has also agreed, according to Berrill, to consider funding a pilot study of anti-gay violence. He said that efforts with law enforcement agencies also included the International Association of Police Chiefs and the National Sheriffs Association.

"We're dealing with very conservative people here," Berrill said.

The irony of the documentation is that when such groups get interested in the problem, they will likely plow over the same turf already tilled by NGTF. Berrill is stoic about the duplication of effort, saying that at least, "We

have an opportunity to educate about the whole problem."

Berrill said some doors have already opened, especially to the National Institute of Mental Health, which has encouraged submission of research proposals to study the mental health consequences of violence against gay people.

The need is constant to amass documentation about anti-gay/lesbian violence, according to Berrill, and he reported the nature of such discrimination isn't fading away.

The NGTF crisis hotline that records incidents of such violence is usually busy and Berrill said thousands of callers each year get a busy signal.

He emphasized the need for gay men and lesbian women to protect themselves. He suggested they take some of the following steps:

- Don't go to parks for sex.
- Don't be foolishly trusting of people.
- Get to know someone better before he/she is brought home.
- Plan self-defense strategies and be aware of the immediate surroundings.
- Say no to sex with a partner if you have misgivings.

On the local scene, Diane Christensen, head of Community United Against Violence (CUAV), said her group was itself in transition trying to meet the anti-gay/lesbian violence threat.

She said CUAV continues to direct services to victims of such violence and promotes neighborhood prevention strategies.

CUAV has also acquired an educational component.

"Our gay speakers bureau goes right into the assailant groups," Christensen said last week, referring to gay and lesbian speakers in public school classrooms to teach a crash course in gay awareness.

"It's much more of a slant around victims and victimization," she said.

Christensen repeated that gays and lesbians were such targets of assault that they had to act to protect themselves. "We need to figure out a way to get educated about basic safety issues. We're not there yet," she said.

"Everyone knows about whistles as a safety tool and they know why to carry them, but we can't figure out how to get people to carry them," she said.

(Continued on page 19)

BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

Suicide Ruling Disputed in Death Of E. Bay Student

Police Find No Evidence of Murder; Family, Friends Point Out Discrepancies

by Charles Linebarger

The friend of a young Berkeley man whose body was found hanging from a tree in Concord earlier this month contends that the dead man had not been depressed, had never talked about suicide and would never have chosen a method as violent as hanging to do it. The man's family have also rejected the finding of the Concord police that his death was suicide.

Timothy Lee, 23, a fashion student who had recently won a scholarship to study in Milan was found dead two weeks ago in a vacant lot near the Concord BART station.

Lee who was gay and black, was described by his friend Eric Ortiz as being "in high spirits" several days before his body was found. "It's so strange to me because he was planning for things in the near future," said Ortiz. "I've known some depressed people and they don't usually plan things like that."

Lee had been seeing a dermatologist and according to Ortiz spending "quite a bit of money on it. People who are depressed don't usually do that. He was looking really good."

Ortiz described Lee as "tall, with hair cut like Prince. He often dyed it red or blond. He was a real artist-type person. He had a look that would have been fine in San Francisco but outside the city, didn't look like the norm."

According to Ortiz, Lee had a problem previously with being harassed because of his looks. Ortiz had even helped Lee work out a route of getting to his job that would enable the gay student to avoid being hassled.

Police in Concord theorize



Timothy Lee

According to Terry, the evidence supports only one scenario, suicide. "Concord, because of the KKK thing a while back (two black men were stabbed last month in the East Bay city by whites wearing Ku Klux Klan robes) makes a lot of people want to draw a correlation. But you're talking about a young man found hanging in a tree," said Terry.

"When you're talking about a possibility of murder," continued the sergeant, "you're talking about a downtown area of Concord where someone would have had to pull him up into a tree. It would have taken several people to lift him. And there were no surface traumas on his body. There was a suicide note they would have had to force him to write, and in which he names his brother and sister. You put all that together and what does that suggest?"

Lee's family has contested the authenticity of the note found with his body. They have called attention to the spelling of all three names in the note. According to his family, Lee misspelled his own name as well as that of his brother and sister. They feel that the misspellings could have been meant as some kind of message to his family.

"I don't want this to be forgotten," said Ortiz. "Hanging is a violent way to die. Tim was not that kind of person. Everybody I know who knew Tim feels the same way."

San Jose Saloon To End An Era

by Dot James

Jack Britton, owner of the Boot Rack Saloon on San Jose's Stockton Strip, announced that the bar will be closing down on Dec. 1.

Britton opened the Boot Rack almost seven years ago after he left Silicon Valley's electronics industry. Britton says the slump in that industry is the major reason for his decision to close the bar since "people don't have the money they used to have."

Richard Calmbacher, Boot Rack manager, agreed but added, "The overhead has gone up tremendously—liquor, insurance, licenses, payroll and other taxes."

But it's the new D.U.I. (driving under the influence) laws, I think, that has had the biggest effect," concluded Calmbacher. "People who used to go out and drink are afraid, so now they don't go out."

Both Britton and Calmbacher noted that the Boot Rack has been very generous in providing

funds and fundraisers for South Bay gay nonprofit organizations over the years.

"We've been in the forefront many times," Calmbacher stated, "in lending support and financial help to lots of groups. We'd like to be remembered for having had a part in all that. We feel very, very proud of our sup-

port through all the years."

Britton and Calmbacher plan a three-day "End of the Era" party at the Boot Rack from Nov. 29 through closing day on Dec. 1. Among the festivities planned is an auction of Boot Rack memorabilia on Sunday, Dec. 1, with the proceeds to benefit the ARIS Project, a South Bay AIDS support group.

San Mateo AIDS Services

The Department of Health Services in San Mateo County now has its own AIDS Coordination Office.

Previously, the Santa Clara County Department of Public Health provided AIDS information and education to its neighboring county under con-

tract provisions of the state.

The new office offers free and confidential services to both AIDS and ARC patients who are residents of San Mateo County.

For more information, call (415) 573-2588 days or (415) 574-7079 eves.

EAST BAY MY WAY

NEZ PAS

The First Shall Be Last

ARGUS-EYED BOUGIE
(A Vigil Nose?)

The Lady High Chamberlain, Lady Lennie, in conjunction with Emperor V Don and Prince Royal Carol, invites everyone to a Candlelight March and Vigil in honor of persons with AIDS, both past and present.

The march, to be held on Saturday, Dec. 5, at 6:30 p.m., will journey around Lake Merritt, with the starting point being the Necklace of Lights directly across the street from the Lake Merritt Hotel dining room.

Candles will be available for a \$1 donation, which will go to EBASF. Candles may be obtained from Town & Country, Cables Reef, and at Blue & Gold in San Francisco.

Hot soup and sandwiches for all marchers will be available after the vigil at Town & Country. It is heartily recommended that all marchers dress warmly.

THE OMNIPOTENT
AND THE HOMOPHILE
(A Witnessing Nose)

A 60-minute documentary on the history of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches is now available on a limited edition video. This video tape is the story of a church, its growth, its special revelation, and will be available for viewing on Wednesday, Dec.

11, 7:30 p.m., in Revol's dining room. The time was selected to be well in advance of Dynasty and Dynasty II!

The Rev. Troy Perry, founder of MCC, is a political activist for human rights, an author, the spiritual leader of 30,000 Christians world wide, and a HOMOSEXUAL.

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches is one of the most theologically innovative and fastest growing Christian churches in the world today. MCC's message is simple, if radically sensational—that God loves everyone, including homosexuals; that is is possible to be both gay and Christian; that homosexuality is not sinful—it's a gift from God.

Presented in a "60 Minute-20/20" format; *God, Gays, And The Gospel: This Is Our Story* in no way attempts to recruit souls to the church. Rather, it is an in-depth study of a man, an organization, and a belief. It is a viable piece important to historians, lay persons, non-Christians, and the just plain curious. Thanks to the efforts of Rev. Jodi Safier, Maranatha MCC, Hayward, the video will be available for viewing this one night only (Dec. 11 at Revol).

A \$5 donation is suggested; half will go to East Bay AIDS Fund, and half will go to Maranatha MCC.



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Nez

natha MCC

ORGANIZATION ABROGATION (An Announcing Nose)

Ed Paulson has informed me that HERO (Hayward Equal Rights Organization) has been dissolved. The balance of its treasury (\$309) was presented to Ed with the stipulation that the money be evenly divided between the AIDS ward at Fairmont Hospital and the AIDS ward at San Francisco General. Working with EBAF and the Godfather Fund, Ed will see to it that the money will be spent for toilet articles: razors, shaving cream, tissues, lotions, toothbrushes, toothpaste, talcum powder, and so forth.

Ed also wishes it announced that his annual Christmas Auction for the needy and baskets for people with AIDS will be held at Big Mama's on Thursday evening, Dec. 12.

GOING, GOING, GONE! (An Auctioned Nose?)

Working a solo, if you will, Little Mother held her latest auction to assist people with AIDS at Revol, last Sunday, Nov. 17. (Because of the demands of his job, Ed Paulson was unable to assist in this event.) Even her older sister failed to make an appearance after promising to do so!

Starting exactly at 4:00 p.m., hundreds of items were auctioned. The heaviest and hottest bidding was for the motorcycle and an "antique" world print.

Even with only one other East Bay bar represented (Sam of T&C), Little Mother managed to raise a whopping \$3,298 in just under four hours. Just imagine what it could have been if the East Bay had banded together, as before.

The current court was represented only by Lady Starr, Ann, and Pam. Even Tequila Gold Guadalupe was ill, but did have her cabbage patch preemie brought in as promised. No emperors or empresses, past or present, found this fundraiser worthy of their presence . . . But remember, they want the community's support.

Two of the EBAF committee were there . . . where were the other three?

Even though the turnout and final total was fantastic, I can only wonder about the "fountains of excuses" that will undoubtedly flow forth from all these "pillars of the community" who continue to prove that they aren't pillars and that there is no community.

Let's hope and pray that "they" never need the assistance for which the auctions are held.

* * *

At any event, the people who are supposed to be at the front of the crowd will arrive last. I'm smiling! Love,

Nez

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Mayor's Record on Board Appointments Criticized

Out of 177 City Commissioners, 11 are Gay or Lesbian; Most Feinstein Appointments Were Made in 1983, 1984

by Charles Linebarger

Mayor Dianne Feinstein is ignoring the gay community when making appointments to the city's commissions, according to some gay political leaders. And statistics appear to back up the charges.

Of 177 city commissioners in San Francisco, only 11 are gay or lesbian. In fact, Feinstein appointed fewer gay commissioners during the last year than she did immediately following the recall election in 1983.

According to information provided by Deputy Mayor Hadley Roff's office, only nine of the gay commissioners were originally appointed by Feinstein, two are Moscone holdovers, whom the mayor has reappointed. Six of those nine appointments came during the year of the recall effort and the year succeeding it.

"The commissions we are talking about here," said Chuck Forester, the mayor's gay liaison, "are the major policy making commissions of the city. They are either responsible for the oversight of a particular city department, or they were set up to develop city policy on a special issue, such as the Landmarks Commission. The Landmarks Commission designates and protects all buildings of historical and architectural merit. Another example is the Commission on the Status of Women which was set up to highlight the status of women in government as well as to develop local policies what recognizes women's special needs and to encourage their participation," he said.

"Other commissions," continued Forester, "except for the Community Development Commission on which Grey Day and lesbian activist Barbara Cameron sit, rarely come up in city government and don't have the same continuing impact on the city."

Day chairs an advisory committee that distributes over \$20 million in federal community development block grant funds.

"It's way too small (the number of gay commissioners appointed by Feinstein)," said Connie O'Connor, a former president of Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club. "She seems to keep people in there till they just about die. I don't know how you can ever change things like that. When you think of the large number of gay and lesbian activists in the city, not just the political ones but all the people who are doing positive things for this city, to just have 11 commissioners is inconceivable."

Rick Pacurar, current president of the Harvey Milk Gay and Lesbian Democratic Club, also talked to the *Bay Area Reporter* about the lack of gay and lesbian commissioners in San Francisco.

"To begin with the number is quite insufficient considering our numbers and the work we've done," said Pacurar. "I don't really have strong objections to the people she's appointed, but

the number is just pure tokenism. We have not had appointments, by and large, to the very important commissions like planning, and the port commission."

"Planning (the Planning Commission) is crying out for a gay appointee because of the housing crisis in this city," Pacurar continued. "The gay

(The Planning Commission) is crying out for a gay appointee because of the housing crisis in this city. The gay community has a real vested interest in the quality of life here."

— Rick Pacurar

community has a real, vested interest in the quality of life here."

The problem, according to Pacurar, is that the mayor, "has a tendency to appoint wealthy, straight, white men who have been big contributors to her campaigns."

O'Connor mentioned a case recently where the mayor had an opportunity to appoint a gay commissioner, indeed, was expected to. "When the Board of Education opening came up," O'Connor noted, "in the midst of all the fag bashing that was taking place, Tom Ammiano (a San Francisco teacher, gay activist and well-known local comic) would have been a real, viable candidate. He had just run a race for the Board and his name was known. I think it's really sad that she didn't appoint a gay or lesbian to that position."

Chuck Forester, the mayor's gay liaison, told the *B.A.R.* that the problem the mayor faces in appointing more gays and lesbians to city commissions is the result of her having come into office when a number of positions on the commissions were already filled. "Many of them good and who wanted reappointment," said Forester.

According to Deputy Mayor Hadley Roff, there are very few appointments coming up. "These things come in cycles," Roff said, "and this year there have been very few. At the moment, we're looking at four appointees who will be coming up for reappointment. One at the War Memorial Board of Trustees, one at the Social Service Commission, and two on the Parking Commission."

San Francisco's Gay Commissioners

1976:	Phyllis Lyon, Human Rights Commission
1978:	Patrick McGrew, Landmarks Board
1980:	Ralph Payne, Rent Board
1981:	Tom Horn, War Memorial Board
1983:	Lav Wilson, Elections Commission
	Arthur Lazere, Industrial Development Committee
	Jerry Berg, Board of Permit Appeals
1984:	Sal Roselli, Human Rights Commission
	Billy Gaylord, Arts Commission
	Juanita Owens, Commission on the Status of Women
1985:	Jim Foster, Health Commission

Raytheon Taken to Trial On AIDS Bias

Raytheon Company, a major Defense Department contractor, will have to defend itself against charges of discriminating against an employee who had AIDS. This is the first such case to go to trial in the United States, according to National Gay Rights Advocates.

Last year Raytheon put John Chadbourne on an involuntary and indefinite medical leave. Chadbourne's doctor said he was able to work and was not contagious. However, Raytheon told Chadbourne he couldn't return to work until he could prove that there was a cure for AIDS.

Chadbourne has since died but National Gay Rights Advocates is pursuing his case.

Leonard Graff, NGRA legal director, said, "Our suit is based on a state law that bars employers from discrimination based on physical handicap. It is our contention that this law covers people with AIDS. Furthermore, Raytheon has no defense since John presented no danger to himself or other employees." NGRA, the San Francisco-based public interest law firm is now

representing Chadbourne's estate.

Jean O'Leary, NGRA executive director, said, "We are putting employers on notice in this state. They cannot mistreat someone with AIDS and then get away with it because the employee dies." O'Leary commented further that Chadbourne's claims accrue to his estate and if Raytheon is forced to pay that will set a new legal precedent which will act as a deterrent to other employers.

The case is being presented before the Fair Employment and Housing Commission in Ventura, California on Nov. 5-8. Peter Laura from the law offices of Leroy Walker in Los Angeles is working with NGRA on the case.



Quentin Kopp

(Photo: Rink)

Maher

(Continued from page 4)

What then, is the problem?

"Well, I can see this being used down the road for something else, like AIDS," he said.

At the beginning of October, San Francisco Federal distributed a one-page memo to its employees about drugs. In the memo, the company said, "The Association without prior notice may require employees to submit to blood and/or urine tests to determine possible use of an illegal drug or controlled substance." The memo went on to say each employee is expected to cooperate and consent to such tests as a condition of employment and that "refusal to consent to such a test is cause for termination."

The memo also said that searches may be made on company property, even checking such personal items as vehicles, packages, briefcases, purses, lunch boxes, and pockets. The company retained the right to also check desks, file cabinets and lockers. According to the memo, "such searches may be conducted with the assistance of specially trained dogs."

Patrick Price, the president of San Francisco Federal denied that his company would terminate an employee who refuses to cooperate with the firm's drug-testing policies.

"We would not terminate that employee," said Price. "We would obviously not infringe upon someone's privacy." When pressed that his company's own memo

used the phrase, "Refusal to consent to such a search (drug search) is cause for termination," or "Refusal to consent to such a test (blood and/or urine test) is cause for termination," Price again said his company would not terminate an employee who refused to cooperate with company policy.

Price tried to play down the company drug policy. He said "some trouble we had had within the company before" led to the institution of the drug policy. But he quickly added that "we are not going to line people up and make them take the test. If we feel someone is out of line, we'll talk with our legal advisors and go from there."

Price did feel, however, that something had to be done about people whose performance at work is affected by addiction to drugs. He was highly critical of Maher and his bill.

"I suppose Maher is going for the dope-smoking vote," said Price, "why, I don't know though. Can't he realize that these people are breaking the law?"

"I wish this gentleman would read the Bill of Rights," said Maher. "We're past the day when we can beat a confession out of someone with a rubber hose."

"The company is not your mother," he added. "All the company has a right to do is ask for competent work within the hours the employee is supposed to be working there. That's it."

The gay man said he was called into a meeting of what the company termed "future corporate officers." In the meeting, he claimed the company insisted

rect the tardy compensation of victims of violence, which includes gays, under California law for lost wages and health care.

"The whole shebang is supposed to take 90 days to get your check, but it's more like two years," she said.

Christensen suggested reform so self-verification could occur at the local instead of the state level and hence untangle the bureaucratic logjam.

NGTF's Kevin Berrill said his group would continue their initiatives, but he said he felt the current climate of U.S. society was poisonous.

"We're in an era of an intense backlash and the more ways to promote the issues the better," he said. "If this isn't possible, we still have an opportunity to educate about homophobia." ■

Violence

(Continued from page 16)

The tenuous relationship between the San Francisco police and the gay community has improved from three years ago, according to Christensen, but she felt there was a major problem at Northern Station.

An estimated 3,000 runaway youths—some gay and lesbian—had made Polk Street a confrontation ground with the police.

"There's no direction in the police force, especially controlling the officer on the street," Christensen said. "Their role conflicts with what they're really able to do. The laws aren't realistic about handling local problems."

The CUAV chief reaffirmed the group's involvement to cor-

that everyone go out and convince other employees to comply with the drug rules, "even if we disagree with them." He said he refused to do so.

The biggest catch, though, according to the gay man, is the unpredictability of an employee's boss.

"What if he sees someone come in to work looking a little bleary-eyed from a bad night's sleep," he asked. "He could just force the man on the spot to take the test. That isn't right. What if the boss is hung-over himself?"

He said he sent San Francisco Federal's personnel office a memo, refusing to submit to any test. He also said the stress on the job because of the subject has been immense. Some employees have told him "it isn't our place to teach anything to executives."

"It's been hell living and working under these circumstances," he said. "I know there are some people working there who are homophobic, know about me, and would just love to can a queer."

But, he said, he wouldn't change any one of his actions. He said he has received outstanding support from his closest friends.

"As I said before, I am not afraid of drug testing," he said. "It's just the principle of the thing. It is my privacy they're dealing with and I don't like that."

"Not only that," he added. "I think any single male living and working in San Francisco has to look at this type of policy and feel a little uneasy." ■

W. Snyder

Auto Leasing At Atlas

As part of its ongoing program to expand services within the gay and lesbian community, Atlas Savings and Loan Association now offers a new service, auto access leasing. Auto access leasing joins other consumer services at Atlas such as home access loans, home equity loans, auto access loans and Visa accounts.

Joining Atlas Savings and Loan Association to manage the auto access leasing program is Charles W. Oberleitner. Oberleitner has more than nine years of experience in the automobile industry and during the past five years he has worked extensively in consumer vehicle leasing. His background also includes fleet vehicle sales and purchasing.

Charles Oberleitner, auto access leasing manager, is available at the Market St. branch by calling 552-6700. ■



(Photo: Rink)

KQED

(Continued from page 4)

programs. (But) we are trying to include issues of importance to the gay community, and of other special interest communities in the Bay Area, in Morning Edition and All Things Considered. These are nationally produced news programs with short locally added news segments," she said.

A source within KQED, who preferred to remain anonymous, called attention to the "inane inequality" in airing a news show produced by an organization whose basic premises allow discrimination against an important segment of the viewing population. "This would never be aired in San Francisco, or anywhere else," our source said, "if they had fired a black reporter for being black. This is discrimination of the worst kind. But because it's aimed at the gay community it somehow gets past the sensibilities of good, liberal-minded people. If there were gay people on KQED's board of directors this would never have happened, but there aren't. There never have been."

Hartz agreed that the recent elections at KQED failed to bring any gay-identified members to either its Community Advisory Board or to its board of directors.

KQED president Anthony Tiano defended the use of the *Monitor* broadcasts, saying, "It all hangs on the quality of the radio programs and not other issues."

Asked if he would feel differently if the case had involved a black reporter at the newspaper, Tiano replied, "That's a hypothetical case. I don't want to discuss it." He refused to comment on the case involving lesbian reporter Madsen.

In the meantime, Pierson acknowledged receiving some critical letters on the *Monitor* broadcasts. She sends them to the offices of the *Christian Science Monitor*. She is interested in finding out how the gay community feels about this issue and others relating to KQED's radio programming. Comments can be sent to Program Director, KQED-FM, 500 8th Street, San Francisco, 94103. ■

C. Linebarger

New York Medical College because of a "homosexual clique." However, the 73-year-old doctor could not convince Manhattan Supreme Court Judge Eugene Wolin that his sexual orientation was a cause of discrimination. Wolin said, "New York does not recognize a cause of action for discrimination based upon sexual preference."

—The New York Native

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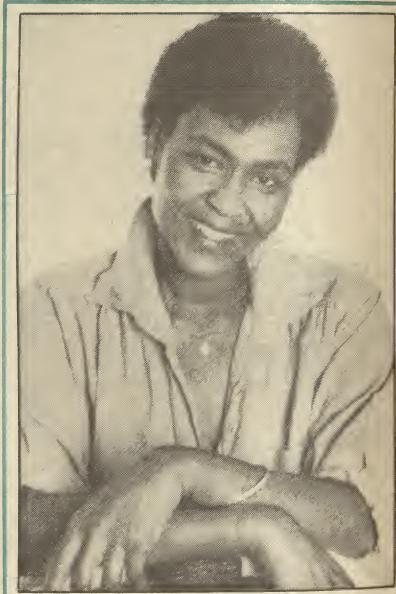
Joseph Taro plays Buckley's Nov. 22

(Photo: Rink)

- Linda Tillery and Band: Music, Escovedo's, 3285 Lakeshore, Oakland, 9 PM, \$6 cover.
- Fraternal Order of Gays: genealogical research, FOG House, 304 Gold Mine Drive, S.F., 8 PM. Share your genealogical research with others and/or learn how to research your own family tree.
- Joseph Taro: music, Buckley's, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9:30 PM, \$6, with guest artist Leslie Sorci.
- Rick & Ruby: comedy, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 6-8 PM.
- Hysterical Women at the Rose: comedy, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 10:30 PM, \$5. Hostette Linda Moakes welcomes Suzy Berger and Marga Gomez.
- Pat Wynne & Her Topical Beat Band: music, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5.
- Dream Man and Bathhouse Benediction: stage performances, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$8. Two one-act plays. In *Dream Man*, we find out who does the talking at the other end of a phone-sex line. In *Bathhouse Benediction*, a carousing bartender sobers up at 4 AM to find out what's at the end of the line.
- Tennessee In the Summer: stage performance, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM. For reservations, call 863-3863. A play suggested by the life of Tennessee Williams.
- Women's Drop-in Space: conversation and caring, 1615 Polk St., upstairs, S.F., 7-9 PM, every Friday.

SATURDAY 23

- Linda Tillery and Band: Music, Escovedo's (see Friday for details).
- Fraternal Order of Gays: Post-FOG-to-Europe Social, FOG House, 304 Gold Mine Drive, S.F., 8 PM. FOG travelers talk about their trip to Europe. Also enjoy a light lunch.
- Deathtrap: stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8:30 PM. Call 861-5079 for more details.
- Mime Flesh, Mime Bones: stage performance, demonstration, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 3 PM, \$2 donation. William Fisher will cover basic principles of Dramatic Corporeal Mime Technique, followed by performance of two mime pieces, *Carpenter* by Etienne Decroux and *Devotion* by Decroux and Fisher.
- Our River City Family: November potluck, 500 'N' St., Apt. 1406, Bridgeway Towers Apt. Bldg., 5th and 'N' Sts., Sacramento, 7 PM. Call 442-4323 for details.
- Weslia Whitfield: music, Buckley's, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9:30 PM, \$6 cover, show only, \$4 dinner guest cover.
- The Pursuit of Happiness: stage performance, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia, S.F., 8 PM, \$7. A play with music, it is a saga of the S.F. Financial District by Steve Omid and W.B. Higgs.
- Group Sax: music, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5.
- Saturday Night Gay Comedy: comedy, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 10:30 PM, \$6, with Danny Williams, Laurie Bushman and Mario Mondelli.
- Girth and Mirth of San Francisco, Inc.: Thanksgiving Party, 176 Page St., S.F. Consult Fat City for details.
- Paul Krassner: an evening of political wit and wisdom, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$6.
- Dream Man and Bathhouse Benediction: stage performances, Theatre Rhinoceros (see Friday for details).
- Tennessee In the Summer: stage performance, (see Friday for details).
- Writing Workshop: for women 60 and older, Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., S.F., 12 noon. Sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders, call 626-7000 for more information.



Linda Tillery and her band plays at Escovedo's in Oakland Friday and Saturday

- San Francisco FrontRunners: Gashouse Cove, 1 to 5 miles, 10 AM. Meet at Marina parking lot, corner of Marina Blvd. and Buchanan.
- San Francisco Hiking Club: day hike at Mission Peak near Fremont. Meet under the big Safeway sign near Market and Church. Call 668-8167 for details.
- Paul Krassner: Valencia Rose (see Saturday for details).
- Diablo Valley MCC: Sunday worship celebration, 2247 Concord Blvd., Concord, 10 AM.
- Bob Sandner: music, Googie's on Geary, 688 Geary St., 5-9 PM.
- Dream Man and Bathhouse Benediction: stage performances, Theatre Rhinoceros (see Friday for details).
- Slightly Younger Lesbians and Gays: meeting, Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 86 Keyes St., San Jose, 1-3 PM. Call 293-4525 for details.
- Gay Volleyball: pick-up games, Potrero Hill Jr. High School, 19th and Deharo, S.F., 11 AM to 2 PM.
- Le Jazz Hot: cabaret, The Black Rose, 335 Jones St., S.F., 9 & 11 PM, \$1. Join MC's Consuelo del Rio and Tommi Rose every Sunday for a classy show featuring S.F.'s finest female impersonators.
- Drop-in VD Clinic: sponsored by the Gay Men's Health Collective, 2339 Duran Ave., Berkeley, 7 to 9 PM. Free and confidential. Testing and treatment for gonorrhea, syphilis, NGU, scabies, lice, etc., also counseling and referrals. Call 644-0425 for more information.

MONDAY 25

- Metaphysical Alliance: AIDS Healing Service, MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 6:30 PM. Call 621-1658 for more details.
- Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center:

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WEEK



Marga Gomez will be one of the Hysterical Women at the Rose Friday
(Photo: Rink)

center board meeting, 86 Keyes St., San Jose, 7:30 PM.

- Sappho Obois and Julie Homi: music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 8 PM.
- AIDS Writing Project: writing workshop for people with AIDS, 3 to 5 PM. Call 861-2385 for more information.
- Gay Comedy Open Mike: comedy, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$3. Performer sign-up, 7:30 PM.

TUESDAY 26

• Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club: general meeting, 3543 18th St., S.F., 7:30 PM. Call 864-6205 for details.

• Unfinished Business, The New AIDS Show: stage performance, The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F. Call 861-5079 for reservations.

• Tuesday Night Forum: Mobilization Against AIDS discusses updated research on anti-viral agents/immune boosters for AIDS and ARC, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5-3 sliding scale.

• Libertarian Bookstore: Gay and Lesbian Diabetes Support Group, 1800 Market St., S.F., 7:30 PM. Call 864-2398 for information.

• Slightly Older Lesbians: meeting, The Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center, San Jose, 7 PM. Call 293-4525 for details.

• Baybrick Burlesque: burlesque, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 9 PM. With DJ Scooter.

• The Temescal Gay Men's Chorus: rehearsal, Trinity Hall, 2320 Dana (at Durant), Berkeley, 7 PM. For details, call 465-7388 or 655-3825.

• Gay International Folk Dancing: for lesbians and gay men, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, Collingwood Park, S.F., teaching 7-7:30 PM, request dancing 7:30-9:30 PM, \$2.50. Call 585-9784 or 552-8413 for details.

• Gay Freedom Day Marching Band: practice, every Tuesday, Gresham Hall, Grace Cathedral, S.F., 7:15 PM. Interested? Call the Bandfone, 621-5619.

WEDNESDAY 27

• Deathtrap: stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros (see Saturday for details).

• Unfinished Business, The New AIDS Show: stage performance (see Tuesday for details).

• Beginning Yoga Classes: 6:30-8 PM. Located near 16th and Valencia. Free for PWA. Call 864-1141 for details.

• Explorations in Magic: Valencia Rose, 7:30-9:30 PM, \$3. Van Ault will lead an evening of guided visualization on the full moon.

• International Lesbian and Gay People of Color Conference: 256 S. Robertson Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90211. This is a five-year-old gathering of lesbians and gay men complete with an arts festival, caucuses, speakers, workshops and a tour of Los Angeles. This gathering is a celebration of the many ethnic backgrounds of our people.

• Night School Theatre: music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 9 PM, \$4 cover.

• Pre-Thanksgiving Party: Buckley's, 131 Gough St., S.F., 5-9 PM, free hors d'oeuvres.

• Steve and Ellen Seskin: music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 PM.

• Gay Open Mike Singing: music, Valencia Rose, 766

THURSDAY 28

Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM. With piano accompanist Magdalene Luecke.

- San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Chorus: rehearsal, All Saints Church, 1350 Waller St., near Masonic, S.F., 7:30-10 PM. Call 334-6542 for information.

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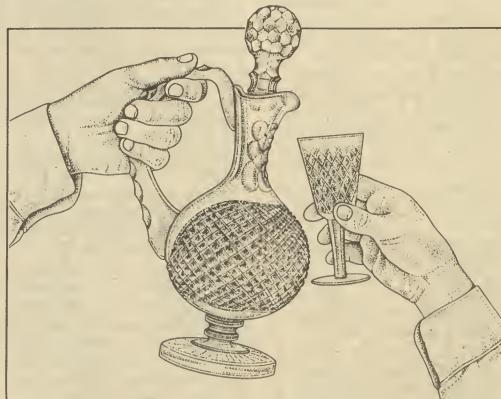


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Van Ault explores magic at the Valencia Rose
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BAY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

TELEVISION

'Frost' Bite

An Interview with the Director Of 'An Early Frost'

by Steve Warren

"I haven't seen this (AIDS) hysteria in Hollywood. I just think it's good copy," says John Erman, who added knowledge of the disease to his knowledge of the entertainment industry in the course of directing *An Early Frost* for NBC-TV.

It's the day of the telecast and, as if the network controlled the weather, the newspapers are full of the season's first major snowstorm—not too early and more than frost, but it ties in somehow. The director should be at his house in Santa Barbara—"I usually take time to cool down after finishing a picture"—but he's come North to attend a screening of *An Early Frost* followed by a question and answer session that's part of a week-long AIDS awareness program at San Francisco State University. "I felt it was something worth supporting," he explains simply.

His comment about Hollywood hysteria is part of Erman's reaction to what he terms the "unfortunate" Screen Actors Guild ruling that effectively allows actresses to avoid kissing actors who might be gay. "I don't see how they could ever enforce it anyway," Erman continues, because Rock Hudson notwithstanding, not everyone's sex life is an open secret in Hollywood. "I don't think I could name a dozen actors I was sure were gay."

"This whole thing was engendered by this business with Rock. I don't think he should have lied to Linda (Evans) when she asked him if he had AIDS." The story that she asked him point blank and he denied it is widespread in the industry, the director says. While it's true Hudson had been lying about his private life for 35 years, "This wasn't just about his life. It was a health question: I don't believe you can get AIDS that way (by kissing), but it should have been Linda's decision to make."

"I think Rock's death has done many good things for the AIDS movement, but it's also fueled a lot of paranoia."

Just that sort of paranoia was what Erman hoped to combat when he agreed to direct *An Early Frost*. In retrospect, he says, "I hope the movie will have helped conquer the irrational fears associated with the disease." He was heartened by a call from a man who had seen an advance screening and told him it had made him realize two men could care for each other, that gays are not merely sexual creatures.

Originally scheduled to air in early 1986, the film was moved to Nov. 18, the middle of rating sweeps, when Rock Hudson put AIDS in the headlines and the public's consciousness. It was moved up another week to avoid competing with the CBS miniseries *Kane and Abel*.

It's impossible for *An Early Frost* not to affect the attitudes of the Middle Americans to whom it speaks honestly and directly. If it had been broadcast a week earlier than it was, it would surely have had an impact on the next day's elections in cities like Houston, where the "Straight Slate" ran—and lost—on a homophobic platform.

"They (NBC) wanted to run it before the election," Erman said, "but there was no way to get it ready in time." He was working on it up to the Wednesday before it aired. If critics failed to men-

tion John Kander's music it's because the final score hadn't been added to the version we previewed.

Erman refers to this deadline pressure when he says, "The negative side of making films for television is that those of us who are interested in quality have to get our quality on the run." The accelerated pace of the tight shooting schedule prepared him for the foreshortened post-production period.

"It was even worse on *Who Will Love My Children?*" he said. "We finished shooting two days before Christmas and it was on the air a month later." Despite the haste, that film won Erman an Emmy. Its star, Ann Margaret, had to wait for her award until their next collaboration, *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

'To reach the audience that we need to reach, we had to do it in a non-threatening way.'

—'Early Frost' director John Erman

John Erman is casual, amiable, bespectacled, and looks too young to have gotten his start as an actor in the 1955 film *Blackboard Jungle*. He did some stage work in the late '50s, including a San Francisco production of *South Pacific* with Mary Martin, before drifting into television. He was a casting director on the original *Twilight Zone* and directed such series as *Stoney Burke*, *The Outer Limits*, *Please Don't Eat the Daisies*, and *The Don't and Mrs. Muir*.

Erman made two theatrical films which bombed, but continued to score on the tube. He got in on the ground floor of the miniseries craze, directing episodes of *Roots* and *Roots II: The Next Generation*. His features include *The Atlanta Child Murders* and the teenage runaway saga *Alexander: The Other Side of Dawn*.

"I'm not at all unhappy doing what I do," he says of working in television, but he wants to return to the bigger budgets and longer shooting schedules of the theatrical films. He wouldn't abandon the niche he's carved for himself of turning out quality dramas of the type he's helped make more common on the home screen than in theaters. "Still," he says, "you



John Erman, director of *An Early Frost* (Photo: S. Warren)

keep dreaming that you'll be the one to make the next *Kramer vs. Kramer* or *Terms of Endearment*."

He may get his shot next year. The second of two forthcoming projects he has with Ann Margaret will be for theatrical release, a drama about "a Betty Ford-type clinic" for substance abusers. He says the star will play "a patient, of course—those are always the good parts."

Meanwhile Erman's made *An Early Frost*, which some see as the latest *Making Love* or *Consenting Adult*—"but better than either of those, I hope," he says when the comparison is raised. Having read some of the early reviews at the time of our interview, a few hours before the telecast, he is surprised some critics have complained that his

director says he still had significant input. "A lot of what I did was simply to go back through the other 14 drafts and pick out things others had thrown away. In that sense I acted as a clearing house."

For example, "I was instrumental in building the Peter-Michael story up again." He also eliminated a homophobic brother—"not because he was homophobic but because Michael had enough family already."

The director proudly claims responsibility for the group therapy scene in the hospital, which he felt was necessary because it helped drive home the point that AIDS is not a gay disease, brought out more examples of discrimination against people with AIDS, and introduced the character of Victor, the stereotypical but sympathetic queen who dies after befriending Michael.

Another discarded scene Erman salvaged occurred following Victor's death, when Michael returns home after learning of it at the hospital. His mother (Gena Rowlands) asks, "Did you see your friend? How's he feeling?" and Michael replies, "He's much better now, Mom." Erman aptly calls this "a golden moment."

As willing as he is to discuss almost anything, Erman declines on two subjects. First is the question of whether anyone involved in the production of *An Early Frost* is gay. "I don't think anybody's openly gay because that's not the issue," he says, explaining that some people would use such knowledge in accusing the film of a pro- or anti-gay bias, whichever they were trying to prove.

The director is also very careful to avoid any kind of comparison of the acting skills or work habits of Gena Rowlands and Ann Margaret. "You never know what could offend," he says. "I love Ann-Margret more than my life but I'm very devoted to Gena."

As if to compensate he offers a recent Ann-Margret anecdote: "I called her last night and told her I was coming to San Francisco, and she said, 'Oh, the Raiders just lost!' They're her favorite team."

Unsuccessfully trying to stifle a yawn I explain that when I hear "Raiders" I think of *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. ■

Spiritual Crumbs

by Bernard Spunberg

Everyone knows what fags are like. Of course, they can look like regular people, but they are usually smart and pretty. Often, they are stinkin' rich. One way you can always tell a fag, however, is that he will never have any backbone. He'll never stand up for what he believes. He is so ashamed of being a fag, he'll never admit it unless he is in the company of other fags or fag-lovers, and maybe not even then. He cannot be relied upon to support other fags in emergencies. If cornered, he will either accept the beating he knows he deserves or just fall apart. There are some fags who think they have political power, but they are so few and so little supported by other fags that they don't matter. The fags who wear dresses—their noise and visibility might make them dangerous if other fags paid attention to them. But they don't. They're too ashamed. They are also silly enough to think that, if they ask real nice, normal people will accept them even though they hate themselves.

Such was the subliminal message of *An Early Frost*, a made-for-TV movie about AIDS broadcast by NBC Nov. 11. In some ways, the program really was very nice. Gena Rowlands and Sylvia Sidney were wonderful as the fag's mother and grandmother. The sets and costumes were quite faggy, which means they were in opulence yet understated good taste. Not unexpectedly, straight critics have eaten the whole thing. Why wouldn't they? The show made them feel wise by underlining and reinforcing everything they already know about fags. The kicker is that gay reviewers seem to be marching in goosestep with the straight reviewers, willingly—gladly, even—crediting NBC with some kind of groundbreaking portrayal of gay life.

An Early Frost wasn't groundbreaking at all. It was business as usual.

The movie asked that audiences believe in an attorney who is so smart, he's been promoted to a partnership in a fancy law firm at age 30. The attorney happens to be gay and has lived with his lover for two years, during which time he has been completely faithful. The ice is getting thin here, but what the hell. This is TV. The attorney is so deeply closeted he keeps a "private" phone line his lover is not to answer. The phone is presumably meant to protect the attorney's professional reputation, but wouldn't the law firm have investigated his identity thoroughly before making him a partner? In law, is it worse to be gay than to hide it? Doesn't integrity count at all? Maybe not.

The attorney lives in the closet personally as well as professionally. His father is successful in business, and his mother gave up a career as a pianist to take care of her husband and children. Neither parent is unsophisticated nor unintelligent. Nevertheless, their son has apparently kept them from guessing his secret.

Just barely, it's plausible. It's (Continued on page 30)



EVEN IN BABYLON

Hand Dancing

When the dance companies of Christopher Beck and Gary Palmer celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Center-space Dance Foundation this weekend by presenting three premieres at the Herbst Theater, some of the most interesting dancing won't be visible. You'll be able to hear it, however, as composer Peter Hartman's hand dancing at the piano reveals the 40-minute solo he's composed for the debut of a new piece of choreography by Christopher Beck.

Beck is well known for the manner in which his choreography brings unconscious imagery out into the open — "it manifests inner dimensions in the outer world," said Hartman — and as one of the few openly gay choreographers at work in the area, I've interviewed him before. So I spoke with Hartman to see how he creates new music for a new dance.

Hartman was the founder, proprietor, and guiding light of 544 Natoma, the performance space and gallery which provided an intense fount of creativity during its all-too-brief existence. Before coming to San Francisco, Hartman had studied with John Cage and Hans Werner Henze, composed ballet scores for Glen Tetley and with Andy Warhol, was musical director for the Living Theater, notated the music and ritual of the Masai Tribe in Kenya, and was the youngest composer (at the time) ever presented at the Berlin Festival. He's studied Northern Indian music in Nepal, Shaman rituals in the Himalayas, presented Gypsy theater in Wales, performed at La Scala, and founded the Poetry/Music Ensemble with Peter Levitt and Diane di Prima to offer poets the context of an appropriate and specially created music. Although "Intense" is his middle name, he disbanded the 544 Natoma performance space to take a breather in Guerneville. But not for long. Itchy fingers led him back into collaboration with Christopher Beck.

The meeting of Western and Eastern musical cultures reflected in Hartman's resume led to differences not only in the sound of this music, but in its construction and theory as well.

"My music used to be composed," Hartman said, "and now it's not."

Viewing music as "the interplay of vibratory fields," Hartman has embraced improvisation as a means of keeping music a non-intellectual experience, to allow unconscious sounds to manifest themselves. These Jungian aspects of his approach are complementary to Beck's work. Still, Hartman understands the dangers of improvisation and works with what he calls a "structured improvisation."

"I write down the main elements, the 'meat' of the music," he said, "but leave a lot open for the performances."

Beck had already choreographed the dance when Hartman began composing.

"I look at the structure of the dance," said Hartman, "and hear the structure of the music. The dance dictates a musical structure, and I use that to build my music. In this case, it's like a late Mahler symphony — not in sound, but structure. There's an adagio, two scherzos, a long adagio, and a hellfire finale."

The current piece is Hartman's second with Beck. "He gives me complete trust," said

Hartman. "His work is protoplasmic for me. The dancers aren't individuals but parts of an organism, which splits and comes together like some strange creature. In his head it's Jung, but on his body it's gut."

That gut response is mirrored in Hartman's music, which is improvised to reflect and expand upon the dancing.

"My piano music tends to be extremely elaborate, like Liszt or Ravel. Beethoven is my master — I love development sections. But having 40 minutes to play for Christopher's dance allows me to get simple, to break through the filigree and get down to it. The balance of Christopher's sections work out so perfectly, too. It's as if he intuitively made it for someone to improvise to."

'As a co-founder of Jacks, I can testify to the sound evidence of this home-party manual.'

"I consider this a major work," he continued. "I had to re-assess my craft to note what I came up with. It was unlike anything I'd written. It's so pretty on the page — it looks like Scriabin or Boulez."

And what does it sound like?

"A strange combination of Charles Ives, Bill Evans, and Alkan."

The emotional nature of improvisation means that even with the precomposed structure he has provided himself ("so I won't get lost"), the piece will be different at both performances.

"I'll play better the second night," Hartman said, "but it won't be as intense as the first."

Will you hear and see both? Nov. 22 and 23, at the Herbst Theater. Info: 392-4400.

WRAPAROUND

But what of hand dancing as man's favorite indoor sport? This activity has spurred in popularity as our sex habits have changed, and millions are discovering the intense joy previously known to only a handful of cultists. And I do mean masturbation.

Even before it became "safe sex," jacking off as a primary sexual outlet was the preferred way for many men to go, and they've been leading the way now that others need to be initiated. It's strange to think that anyone would need to be initiated into the art of jacking off, but group JO in the '80s is different from that isolated activity we carried out in our teens, or that late-night didn't-get-a-trick activity we turned to as a last resort as adults. To overcome this traditional picture of JO, many men need to be introduced to JO, to see what a pulsating, ever-changing organism of sex energy it can be. In SF Jacks, local men have had such an instructional — and festive — introduction. The Jacks are going into their third year of operation, with weekly parties at which a hundred and more naked men instantly communicate the art of JO. (For a return phone call and a monthly newsletter, write SF Jacks, 2336 Market St., Suite 127, S.F. 94114.)

Those who can't attend Jacks may want to have a party in their home, and for that they'll need a small magazine recently published by JO Buddies called *How to Have a JO Party in Your Own Home*. I'd want this newsprint brochure if only for the hot photographs that illustrate it, but it also gives the entire rundown, as developed by experts, on what you'll need to do to have hot and safe sex parties. Who to invite; who not to invite; what supplies are needed and how much of each; how to set up, break the ice, and deal with inappropriate sexual behavior — it's all in this brochure.

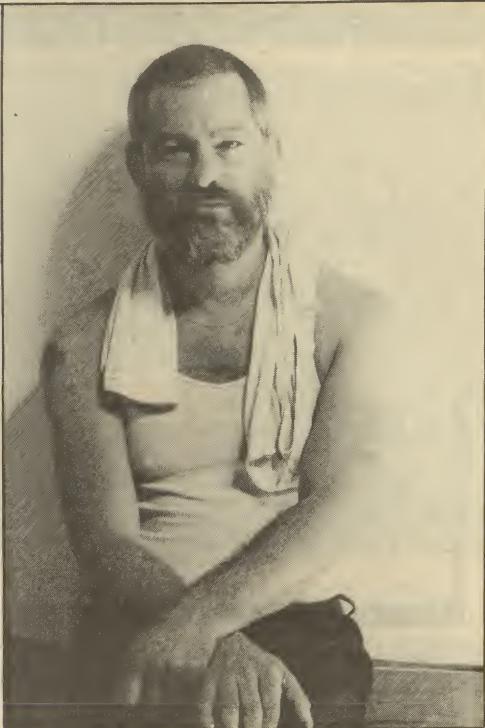
ed by JO Buddies called *How to Have a JO Party in Your Own Home*. I'd want this newsprint brochure if only for the hot photographs that illustrate it, but it also gives the entire rundown, as developed by experts, on what you'll need to do to have hot and safe sex parties. Who to invite; who not to invite; what supplies are needed and how much of each; how to set up, break the ice, and deal with inappropriate sexual behavior — it's all in this brochure.

Here's Buzz Bense, the brochure's creator: "I brought a friend to Jacks a year ago. He was leading a workshop on 'Hot and Healthy Sex' for the AIDS Health Project. I realized that they needed an instructional booklet.

"I made the first draft and duplicated 75 copies of that workshop, and it was an instant hit. I was even told there was a purloined copy in the Mayor's office!

"When Ron Bluestein wrote in the *Advocate* about the national network of Jacks' clubs — there are Jacks in seven cities — he mentioned my manual, and I was deluged with requests from across the country. That got me off my duff, and we printed this bigger, flashier, more informative edition. The Boston AIDS Action Committee has purchased 100 for evaluation and use in a safe sex education program, and it has the potential of developing a national newsletter. But now it's just a tasteful instructional manual filled with hard dicks.

JOHN KARR



Peter Hartman

(Photo: Rink)

THESE TOO

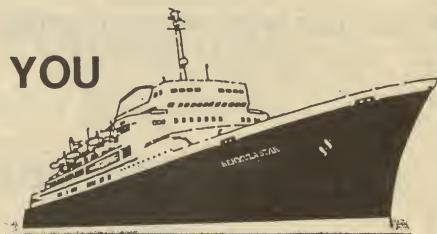
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STAGE

Hungry for More

by Stephen Drewes

A CT's latest offering, *Opera Comique*, is a delightful Gallic confection which comes very close to being the *piece de resistance* it is clearly intended to be. This souffle certainly hasn't fallen, but one suspects something went slightly wrong in the kitchen, and it was discovered some essential spice was not to be

had. Nevertheless, the dish emerged more than palatable.

Opera Comique, written and directed by Nagle Jackson, has an absolutely wonderful premise. The action takes place in a corridor outside the boxes at the Opera Comique on the evening of the debut of Bizet's *Carmen* in 1875. The central box contains a



Henry Woronitz as George Bizet explains *Carmen* in *Opera Comique*

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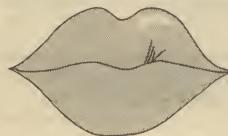
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Henry Woronitz as George Bizet explains *Carmen* in *Opera Comique*

very nervous Bizet and his comrade, Ernest Guiraud. To their right is M. Paul Vigneron and his excessively randy son Hector. To their left are M. and Mme. de la Corniche, and their daughter, Viviane. The Corniches and Vigneron are in attendance in order to arrange a marriage between their progeny. The hall is also haunted by a shabby cabaret singer named La Tartine, who has pretensions towards Grand Opera and is hoping to waylay the great Charles Gounod, whom she rightly suspects will also be in attendance. All this is watched over by a cynical lady named Odile, whose duty it is to lock and unlock the boxes at various strategic points during the plot. Obviously, no one in this cross section of the audience has any interest in *Carmen* other than its hapless composer and the Great Gounod, who is happily prepared to cordially loathe anything Bizet has to offer. The Artist vs. The Philistines is the theme of *Opera Comique*, and what a splendid idea to present it to audiences that take their opera as seriously as San Franciscans do. And in the middle of the season, too!

Opera Comique sets out to be a farce in the grand tradition of Georges Feydeau, rich with beautifully timed entrances and exits and merry mayhem. Feydeau may rest easily, however, because this script tries to achieve too much and, in so doing

jumps out of its genre with confusing results. There is a murder in one of the boxes, a plot development which is so out of place in this sort of entertainment I was actually startled. Suddenly we're in a murder mystery! At various times, the character of Bizet is allowed to indulge in some nicely written tirades against the insensitivity of his audiences which, emotionally effective though they are, belong in a different play. Suddenly we're in a melodrama! The real problem, though, is that the playwright doesn't understand the rhythm of a successful farce. Too often the madcap pace at which farce must be played is slowed to a virtual standstill by scenes that are just too long.

Dakin Matthews and Marrian Walters, as M. and Mme. de la Corniche and Peter Donat, as Vigneron, are in top form. Their expertise at playing Style is a joy to behold, and it's a lovely, comfortable feeling to know there are actors around from whom one can safely expect nothing less than excellence. I've always found Joy Carlin a cool, intellectual actress, and despite her terrific timing I wondered if a more fiery performer might have better enlivened the role of Odile. Henry Woronitz gives his usual intelligent, clean-cut performance as Bizet, and John Castellanos is swarthy and staunch as his sidekick, William Patter-

son seems to be specializing in playing dim, slightly unpleasant older men, and is perfectly cast as Gounod. Marcia Pizzo as Viviane and Joan Stuart-Morris as La Tartine are, regrettably, less successful. There is nothing of the dewy-eyed ingenue in Pizzo's performance, which is what the script requires. Consequently, there is nothing startling in the revelation of her secret passion for her intended's father. Her characterization is composed of bold colors, while something in a nice pastel would have worked better. Stuart-Morris' blowzy tart is so contemporary I wouldn't be at all surprised to run into her in the Tenderloin.

Jesse Hollis' setting is convincing—faded red velvet walls with bits of neo-Egyptian Second Empire detailing. Unfortunately, costume designer Fritha Knudsen designed two of the four women's costumes in the same palette as the walls, and La Tartine and Mme. de la Corniche have a tendency to disappear. The lighting is by Derek Duarte, and the ingenious sound design by Christopher Moore.

Opera Comique is a delicious collation, the sum of whose parts emerges greater than its whole. Although it has a tendency to leave you hungry an hour later, you leave the table satisfied, or, if anything, hungry for more. ■

Opera Comique
Geary Theatre; 771-3880

No Defense

by Stephen Drewes

I have often written about productions I enjoyed without necessarily admiring. This time, however, the shoe is on the other foot. *Kerouac-i.e.!*, which opened Nov. 15 at the Capp St. Playhouse, is a one-act treatment of the life and times of Beat Generation author Jack Kerouac and his hero/nemesis Neal Cassady. It is performed and directed by its author, Gary Aylesworth, and Peter Newton, who plays the guitar pretty much throughout the show.

The play is circular in structure. We start with Kerouac's descent from a mountain, whence he had been bitten by Gary Snyder in order to listen to the silence, or something. On we go to the publication of *On the Road*, and a very long sequence re-enacting Jack and Neal's many peregrinations across the nation, with various stopovers in Mexico. Along the way we meet William Burroughs, Snyder, Allen Ginsberg, Carolyn Cassady, Gore Vidal, and various other Beat heroes and groupies. We end up on the mountain again, and then progress to a 20-minute coda which describes Kerouac's neurotic reaction to success, his retreat into alcoholism and paranoia, and the eventual death of both characters.

This is the most interesting part of the play, which is about a half hour too long. We could easily have done without a couple of crossings and at least one visit to

Mexico. While I applaud the author's concern with historical accuracy, I am reminded once again that theatrical reality and off-stage reality are, mercifully, two different things.

Despite its excessive length, much of *Kerouac-i.e.!* is gripping. It is well performed, even though Aylesworth bears as much resemblance to his subject as I do to Marie of Roumania. Both these actors are fundamentally interesting and technically proficient. The piece is performed at a breakneck speed which makes the few moments which are performed at a normal pace seem more profound than they may actually be. The music adds a great deal, and the lines are written in jazzy, Bebop rhythms. What, then, am I bitching about?

What I'm bitching about is that Aylesworth has taken a major American literary talent—like him or not, that's what he was—and turned him into Pinocchio. I mean that literally. Walt Disney's cartoon treatment of Pinocchio is used as the play's central metaphor. Jack is watched over by a sort of spiritual Guidance Counselor called Dr. Sax—the title and main character of Kerouac's last, unsuccessful novel—and by the Blues Fairy, a Jiminy Cricket imitation. Jack continually complains that he wants to become "a real, live boy" and he and Neal end up wearing donkey ears and braying. This is clever, of course, but

Kerouac-i.e.! paints a portrait of the writer that is so relentlessly unsympathetic one wonders why the playwright wrote the play at all. Is it supposed to be some sort of expose?

As it should, most of the script concerns Kerouac's odd, masochistic relationship with Cassidy. But the main thrust of this exploration concerns whether or not the novelist was gay. I find this about as riveting as the Eleanor Roosevelt Furor. I mean, who really cares? Apparently, Aylesworth is intrigued by Kerouac as a phenomenon, but not as a writer. The few times Kerouac's work is directly quoted, it is presented in the most demeaning possible way. *Kerouac-i.e.!*, which is intended to be pronounced "Kero-wacky," badly states that Kerouac never wrote a word that wasn't motivated by financial greed and desire for social recognition. Oh, really?

Kerouac-i.e.! is an intriguing picture of an era gone by, and Kerouac may have been everything Aylesworth says he was, but it is also an attack on a serious artist who cannot defend himself. Kerouac may have been many things, but he was not a cartoon. Sorry, Jack. Let's hope someone does right by you next time. ■

Kerouac-i.e.! (A Parabolic Musical Play)

Theater Out of Nothing

by Mark I. Chester

If I wanted to go for the Guinness Book of World Records for the shortest theater review on record (which I believe is three words), it would be "RareArea." *RareArea* by George Coates Performance Works opened last weekend to thunderous applause for an open-ended run through the holidays at Theater Artaud. In June, after its American premiere at Zellerbach Hall, I suggested that people "get their butts to Berkeley to see *RareArea*." Currently in a revised version, *RareArea* continues to expose new directions in theater, and my recommendation remains the same.

If you have never seen a Coates' performance before, visuals, music, and theater are layered one on top of the other, creating symbolic images and metaphors with as many possible interpretations as there are members of the audience. There is a

nical problems that can be solved in time.

The problem of elements with political overtones is more difficult, however. Coates is not interested in creating linear dialogue or presenting a linear story. But by introducing recognizable political characters, political acts (an attempted assassination), and in using politically related visuals (armies, demonstrations, armies and police), Coates insists on the importance of the political imagery. They can not just be another set of beautiful or fascinating images floating by. They must be rooted in the structure; somehow acting as building blocks that ultimately and inevitably lead to the piece's climax, the performers angrily breaking the staffs of flags in half. It is a potent moment, but it does not appear based on or evolved from the images that preceded it.

'I hope Coates will look beyond *RareArea*'s popularity and continue to look for the jewel that pierces and illuminates the dark'

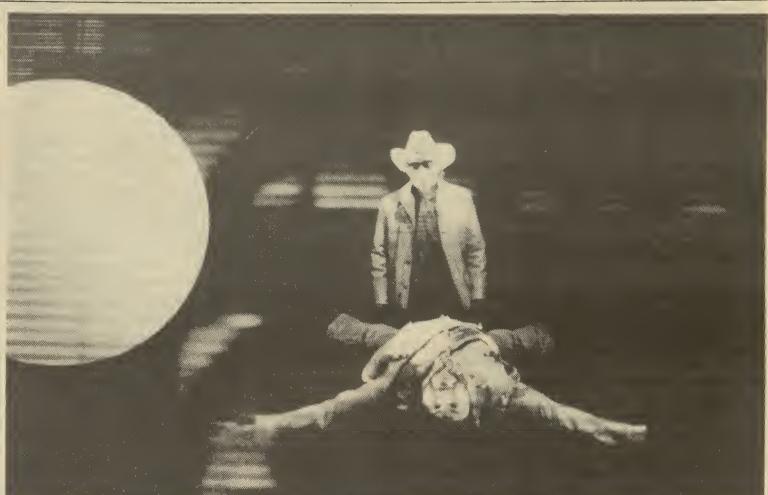
stream-of-consciousness, dreamlike structure that evolves much like the current technology of slide dissolves; individual images become something new when merged with totally distinct images. It is not an experience that you try to understand. It is a sensuality that washes over you.

Coates' speciality is the magician's sleight of hand, and the magic and wonder the magician creates. He has begun to assemble his own vocabulary about theater that gives his work a very particular look and feel. Experimental lighting techniques create multi-dimensional landscapes, surreal perceptions, and new-world creatures of the mind. Everyday items are used in uniquely different ways that imbue them with a whole new meaning. Perceptions are constantly transmuting into something else.

But while *RareArea* succeeds as theatrical spectacle, and as visual/aural titillation, it fails conceptually to fulfill and answer the questions Coates appears to have theatrically posed. In that sense *RareArea* is Coates' weakest theater piece so far. Unfortunately, in its current edition, it is even weaker than it was last June when it premiered. At the same time Coates at his weakest is more fulfilling than many at their best.

With each new show, Coates seems to have set up problems to be explored, investigated, improvised around, and ultimately solved. In *RareArea* the two most obvious problems are the use of a two-tiered, steeply raked stage and the use of elements with political overtones. While the discoveries Coates and company have made are interesting, in neither case do they feel complete or as if they cut to the heart of the matter.

The problems with the raked stage remain the same as they were in Berkeley. The performers sometimes appear clearly uncomfortable, without a sure sense of center and balance, due to the steep angle of the stage. In addition, movements intended to appear as if the performers are floating, distinctly signal that the performers are moving or laying on a raked stage. These are tech-



Sean Kilcoyne (top) and John Duykers in George Coates Performance Works' *RareArea* (Photo: M. Gray)

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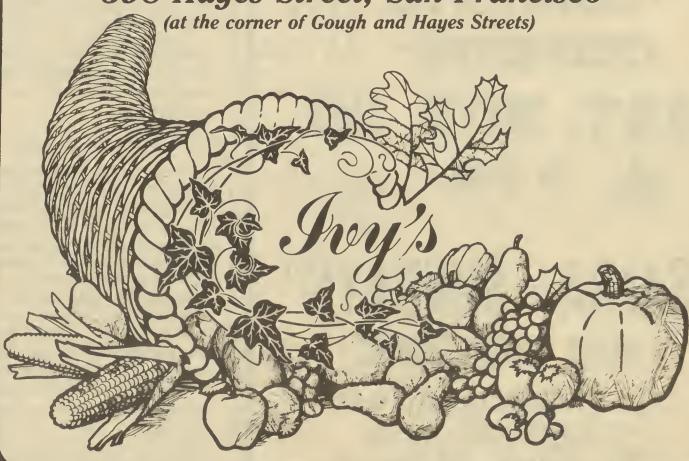
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GEORGE HEYMONT

One of the biggest disillusionments which accompanied the sexual revolution was my growing awareness that certain highly-prized things just might not equal their reputations. All too often, the enticingly rock-hard bodies of muscularly chiseled clones turned out to belong to rather ordinary people who, unlike the sexual excitement their images provoked, were quite boring in bed. To my utter amazement, these highly sought-after stallions, the men who possessed endowments of international repute, often did not know what to do with them. All that glittered was not gold and many a picnic basket left its consumer feeling hungry a half hour later. Thus, despite its fastidiously stud-like packaging, the chosen gay image of the 1970s (that most carefully cultivated of artifices) often proved to be little more than a lot of hot air and humpy attitude crammed into a pair of torn and tattered jeans.

Despite poor ratings on the meateat of man-eaters, many gay men have since learned that they are indeed genuinely loving people who deserve to be appreciated on the basis of their own peculiarly distinctive merits. Those of us who could not conform to the prescribed gay look have often compensated for our lack of physical mystique by succeeding in that dangerous department of life known as Reality. If our faces have not launched a thousand hips, our minds have, nevertheless, become as sharp as razors. If our pumped-up pees have not attained the proper measure of pulchritudinous perfection, our hearts have proven to be more expansive than the tumescent talents of those gay demi-gods who where always being worshipped by the masses.

"Okay, Martha. Truth or illusion. Which will it be?" demands one of the characters in Edward



Neither Mignon Dunn nor Roberta Alexander were able to breathe much life into the Met's revival of Janacek's *Jenůfa*.

approaches, I think we should examine what causes a turkey like *Kismet* to get stuffed anew.

On paper, *Kismet* seems a logical option for an opera company to produce. Set in Baghdad, it offers an exciting opportunity for lavish costuming, exotic sets, and big production numbers. Its score is a direct rip-off from Borodin's opera, *Prince Igor*. And the show was a big hit in the 1950s. So much for the illusion. The truth of the matter is that, when *Kismet* opened during a newspaper strike, its producers kept the show alive by playing hit tunes like "Stranger in Paradise" on the radio. A recent reworking of the musical entitled *Timbuktu*—which starred Eartha Kitt camping it up with some butch black beefcake—was an absolute dog.

'Abandoning the more superficial reward and value systems built into our previous gay lifestyle may soon force many a gay man to part with some of his most cherished illusions. Alas, too many hungry souls have already learned that what they once admired as "the dick of death" may have been a frightening example of truth in advertising.'

Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* The grim realities of the current AIDS epidemic have taught us that, in the long run, truth may just have to become more important. Abandoning the more superficial reward and value systems built into our previous gay lifestyle may soon force many a gay man to part with some of his most cherished illusions. Alas, too many hungry souls have already learned that what they once admired as "the dick of death" may have been a frightening example of truth in advertising.

TAKE MY HAND, PLEASE!

I stress this because, as more and more opera companies attempt to bridge the gap between opera and musical theater, they seem to be basing their production plans on popular illusions rather than hard truths. Having succeeded with such cult crossover classics as Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd* and Leonard Bernstein's *Candide*, the New York City Opera was hell-bent on pursuing such populist illusions with its recent production of Wright and Forrest's *Kismet*. The disastrously disillusioning results underlined NYCO's poor choice of repertoire which is why, as Thanksgiving

Kismet's book is an embarrassing elephantine dud—a dreary truth which became evident on opening night in Lincoln Center as this tired old musical gallumphed across the stage of the New York State Theatre, spun around on its aging flat feet, and died an ignoble death. Neither Lawrence Miller's lavish sets and extraordinarily exquisite costumes, Scott Bergeson's conducting, nor Frank Corsaro's direction could save this beast of burden from expiring under the weight of its obvious excess baggage. Jack Harrold's Wazir of Police and James Billings' Omar offered isolated limp moments of comic relief. Susanne Marsee vamped her way through the role of Lalume like a well-toned drag queen practicing for a Tuesday night Mae West competition. Although Maryanne Telesse's Marsinah and Chris Groenendaal's Caliph were vocally and physically appealing, George Hearn's pivotal Hajj was undersung and pathetically out of place in an ensemble opera company.

This expensive-looking *Kismet* production galls me simply because, with its new spring season of musicals, NYCO has a rare opportunity to show exactly

how well an opera company might rediscover those works from the American musical theater which belonged in an opera house more than they did on Broadway. Instead of focusing its energies on such truly musical musicals as *Carnival*, *Illo in the Shade*, *She Loves Me* and *Do I Hear a Waltz?*, in February City Opera will produce a new version of Lerner and Loewe's lumbering Leviathan, *Brigadoon*. The most recent revival of that show collapsed on Broadway only five years ago in an auditorium with 1,000 fewer seats than the New York State Theatre.

My hunch is that opera companies are looking to the wrong period of the American musical theater in choosing their vehicles. (This year, even *South Pacific* bombed out in Los Angeles.) Instead of choosing shows from the 1940s and mid-1950s, opera companies should try their luck with several musicals from the period between 1959 and 1965. If they don't, I strongly fear those who fail to learn from history may soon be condemned to repeat it.

ALL ABOAT!

If *Kismet* was an outright turkey, the Met's revival of *Jenůfa* was not much better. This production, which may have fared well under Gunther Rennert's original direction, was thrown onstage by Phebe Berkowitz with about as much appeal as an old bandage caked with dried blood. Replacing Hildegard Behrens in the title role was Roberta Alexander, who proved to be functional but hardly exciting. Lacking the vocal and dramatic power to successfully portray the domineering Kostelnicka, Mignon Dunn was pitifully miscast. The inherent dramatic strengths of Timothy Jenkins' Laaca and William Lewis' Steva were all but overwhelmed by Gunther Schneider-Siemens' massive sets. (Kostelnicka's home looked like a peasant hut elongated to resemble the Lincoln Tunnel.)

The saving grace of the evening was Vaclav Neumann's conducting, which coaxed a rare beauty out of Janacek's score. Although the Met's orchestra played its heart out for Maestro Neumann, the magic stopped dead at the footlights and never once made it to the stage. It was one of the Met's notorious evenings where what you see ain't what you get.

KEITH WHITE

Surprises From Oakland Ballet

The Oakland Ballet's fifth repertory program of the season was among the most satisfying evenings it has presented. What made this program so good was the way in which it summarized the company's strengths while reminding us of its potential.

Carlos Carvajal's *Synergies*, one of last season's premieres, had simple new costumes for this year's performances, one group of unitards and skirts in primary red and blue, another in secondary green and heliotrope, a third pink and grey, to correspond with the moods of the various movements of the Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 5. Carvajal's movement style for this piece, boldly neoclassical, responds admirably to the nuances of the music, even making sense of the somewhat muddy Larghetto 4th movement. What I could not see was the sense of "harshness and longing" so prevalent in society today" Carvajal cited in the program note. *Synergies* looks abstract and very American to me, giving the dancers a workout and the audience a good introduction to the company; a very good curtain-raiser.

BACK TO BATON

PHILIP CAMPBELL

Rare or Underdone?

The Taaffe in Ellen Zwillich's name rhymes with safe and that's a pretty fair assessment of her recently premiered Symphony No. 2, Cello Symphony.

In his first return to Davies Hall since resigning as music director, Edo de Waart, long known for his championing of modern music, led a concert that included an overdue exhumation of a beautiful tone poem by an unjustly neglected American writer (who was, incidentally, a homosexual) and the rightfully anticipated symphony by Pulitzer Prize-winning Zwillich. As a hedge against poor ticket sales the program also featured Sergei Rachmaninov's gloriously tuneful Symphony No. 2.

De Waart managed to keep the large audience happy with his sturdy approach to the gorgeous Rachmaninov. Aining for subtlety rather than obvious sentiment is always a good idea with this brilliant score, and the Maestro is justly reckoned for his practical sensibility and efficiency. I've heard him elicit better results in past performances, but no one can deny his grasp of Rachmaninov's architecture and, if the Adagio seemed less than ravishing, I suspect it was due more to my ambiguous response to the Cello Symphony which preceded it than any lack in Rachmaninov's melodic genius.

The evening began well with Charles Tomlinson Griffes' "The Pleasure Dome of Kubla Khan." Too few music lovers are aware of Griffes, but those who have savored his lovely piano works know him as a masterful and original writer. "The Pleasure Dome" itself began life as a piano piece and clothed in the inventively transparent orchestration of the author, it stands as a sensuously diverting evocation of that famous literary fragment from Coleridge.

Michael Steinberg's informa-

Also a premiere last season, Betsy Erickson's *At a Time When* initially has the look and feel of a modern work, and Erickson does explore a number of unusual themes: group dynamics; female leadership, dominance and submission; along with some experimental uses of moveable set pieces (large boulders) which the dancers rearrange, use for support, and even fight over before the work has ended. All this occurs against Alan Hovhaness' score, "Mountains and Rivers Without End," an eerily modern piece of indistinct rhythmic structure. But the real problems are the ballet's lack of a strongly stated point of view and a unified movement language; the latter might have made up for the music's lack of metrical logic. Hints of experimental movement possibilities appear in Summer Lee Rhatigan's opening solo, but after a while Erickson has the dancers performing traditional ballet adagios that would fit just as nicely in a romantic piece. Occasional moments of sculptured partnering were interesting, but the whole work had the look of the modern works made by contemporary Russian choreographers:

Ron Thiele and Summer Lee Rhatigan in *At a Time When* at the Oakland Ballet

heavy-handed, presumably laden with political significance, but neither beautiful nor provocative. The one thing this piece did suggest was the Oakland Ballet's willingness to try new things, and Erickson's continued search for a personal style. I keep thinking she'd fare better if she simplified and limited everything: one theme, a simply physical production, danceable music, and a movement language she knows well. Young choreographers so hard to be different they end up being nobody.

The value of traditional approaches was underscored by the very next piece, selections from Glazanov's *The Seasons* as choreographed 20 years ago by director Ronn Guidi and Raoul Pausse. The eminently danceable score inspired a graceful virtuosity that flows like a fountain, reaching its highest point in the second duet. With the steady support of Ron Thiele, Erin Leedom, a very musical dancer, seems to almost swim in the lyricism. Leedom's singular quality—among many talents—

is the attitude of total happiness she exudes while she dances. Watching Erin Leedom in *The Seasons*, I imagined that if I were the director of Oakland Ballet, I'd mount a production of *The Sleeping Beauty*, a ballet fast becoming a rarity in ballet repertoires despite its great Tchaikovsky score and audience popularity. Erin Leedom is more perfectly cast as "Aurora" than almost anyone I can think of.

The Oakland Ballet premiere of the late modernist Charles Weidman's *Lynchtown* is one of the dance oddities that have made Oakland Ballet famous among American repertory companies. A six-minute work for ten dancers, *Lynchtown* derives its hypnotic power from large, simple, repetitive movements performed along a strict diagonal on a starkly lit stage. Unless you knew beforehand that the work is expressing the dynamics of a riot, I don't think you would guess that the limp body being drug onstage at the end was the result of a lynching. But the work is more interesting for its means

than for any literal messages it contains.

The evening ended with *Bolero*, a ballet by Marc Wilde that was not originally made for Oakland Ballet, but has become for many audience members a signature work for the company. The drama of a stripped stage, the throbbing Ravel score, and the casual atmosphere of a rehearsal all create a charged setting in which the humor and unusual visual thrust of Wilde's choreography are amplified. Each company member seems to own his or her own solo, giving us the impression that the solos are almost being improvised on the spot. There is a sense of having met each dancer on his own technical/temperamental terms, and of everyone's having enjoyed the transaction.

There is a wide differential in the quality of the performances at Oakland Ballet, much more than in most companies. But the best of the Oakland's work is more wonderful than anything around—and somehow more wonderful yet because it takes us by surprise. ■



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WIDE SCREENING

STEVE WARREN

One Latino Makes It, The Other Doesn't

It's impossible for me to be objective about *Latino*. It cut too deeply into my leftist-leaning, Latin-loving heart, mind and guts. It's a shameless piece of propaganda to be sure, but our tax money is paying for equally blatant stuff on the other side.

As if it were a sequel to *Under Fire*, *Latino* chronicles life in Nicaragua since Somozza's departure. The popular Sandinista government is opposed by U.S.-trained contra guerrillas. The contras are led by former Somozans who evangelically inspire the "freedom fighters" to fight the "diabolical, atheistic communists." This they do, for example, by breaking up a Good Friday procession, raping a girl and shooting two men after making them dig their own graves.

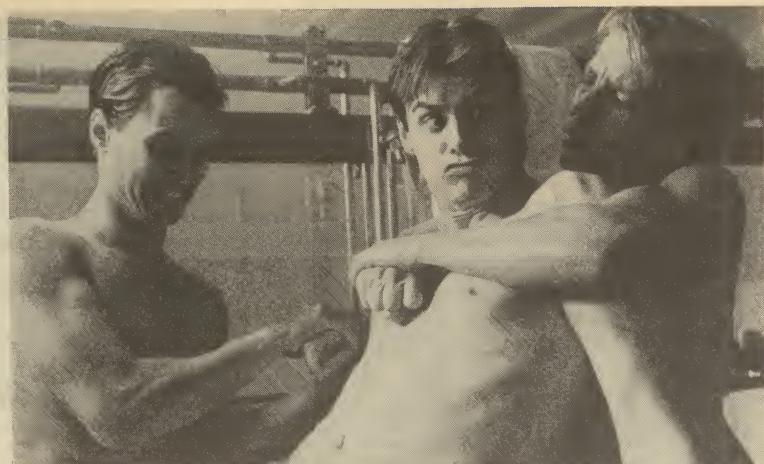
The Sandinistas, on the other hand, are portrayed as simple farmers who defend themselves when they have to but would rather be left alone to harvest their crops and share the bounty

with the poor. All but the most gullible viewers will realize there's a certain bullshit factor at work here.

Robert Beltran stars as Eddie Guerrero (the name means warrior), a Chicano officer sent to Honduras officially to train contras and unofficially to take part in their raids across the border. He falls in love with Nicaraguan Annette Cardona, but he's been well brainwashed and his conversion is slow and painful. The process is helped by Luis Torrentes, a teenage boy drafted at gunpoint and tortured until he agrees to fight against his own people.

Cinematographer Haskell Wexler, who hasn't directed a fictional feature since *Medium Cool*, maintains a good dramatic balance while presenting his strictly one-sided message. The good thing about the U.S.A. is that we can make and show movies like *Latino*. The bad thing is that we have to.

(*Lumiere*, following



Shower Room for Improvement — This scene from *Once Bitten* isn't what it seems, although the rest of the school thinks it is. Thomas Balatore (l.) and Skip Lackey (r.) are just trying to examine Jim Carrey for bite marks, to see if that's why he's been acting vampirish. The movie's rated PG-13, so this is as much as you see of the boys.

tonight's benefit premiere for *Mother Jones* magazine at the Ghirardelli Cinema with Haskell Wexler in person. Call 558-8881 for details).

CROSSOVER

"Crossover" is a much-used word in the performing arts these days. It started with soul and country singers crossing over to the pop charts—where the money is. "Fusion" was created to give jazz musicians a piece of the action. Now everyone from gay playwright Harvey Fierstein to opera singer Placido Domingo is breaking out of their specialized categories into the more lucrative mainstream.

Ruben Blades has *Crossover Dreams* of selling his Latin music to a wider audience, of being a more ethnic Julio Iglesias. His first album in general release didn't sell, so he's trying another route, starring in a movie about a man whose situation is even worse than his own.

Rudy Veloz (Blades) has been going nowhere in New York's salsa palaces for ten years and he's determined to escape that circuit. When he gets a recording contract Rudy buys a classic car, moves out of the barrio and sheds his Puerto Rican manager, fiancée and trumpeter. Then he learns crossover dreams don't always come true.

Director and co-writer Leon Ichaso tells his story with great economy and enough rough edges to qualify as funky. Blades is no Olivier or even Olmos, but he's convincing as a failure. It's only when we're supposed to believe he has a chance of making it that the picture falls apart. He has no visible charisma and none of his songs have the kind of hook that would give them crossover potential. Anyone who had *Crossover Dreams* for this movie is in for a rude awakening. (Four Star)

VAMPIRE MOVIES SUCK

One look at the new horror comedies will tell you why they didn't open for Halloween, but not why they didn't wait until April Fool's Day.

Despite David Bowie, *The Hunger* didn't attract a lot of teenagers—or anyone—so the plot's been recycled into—what else?—a teenage comedy. *Once Bitten* makes *Teen Wolf* look like *Citizen Kane*. It's about a 400-year-old vampire (Lauren Hutton) who has to suck the blood of a male virgin three times before Halloween to maintain her youth and beauty. Unfortunately, Hutton looks like she's a couple of HALLOWEENS too late.

She meets Mark (Jim Carrey), a toothy version of Dobie Gillis, in a Hollywood bar where he's gone to look for action because his suburban sweetie won't put out. "Call me Countess," Hutton

says. "I had a dog named King once," Mark replies. She's struck paydirt!

The Countess lives with a gay manservant (a mincing Cleavon Little) and several vampiresses, including twin musclemen Gary and Glen Mauro. She doesn't bite Mark on the neck, but a good bit lower. This leads to a shower room scene which is the film's comic highlight—by default—where his best friends check him for fang marks and everyone else clears out thinking they're gay. For a mainstream movie *Once Bitten* has a surprising amount of gay material (including Alan McRae as a drag queen), but it's all either stereotypical or negative.

Toward the end things go from silly (a badly choreographed pas de trois at the high school dance with Mark being fought over by his girlfriend and the Countess) to sloppy. (The vampires are afraid of fire but have about a hundred candles and torches lit for a sucking ceremony.)

Sure, you'll get a few laughs out of *Once Bitten*, but considering how desperately it tries to amuse its success ratio is well below the law of averages. (Alexandria, Serramonte, Alhambra)

★★★★★

The main problem with *Transylvania 6-5000* is that it keeps slapping you on the back to see if you're getting it. A secondary problem is that there's not much to get.

Jeff Goldblum and Ed Begley Jr. are reporters for Norman Fell's tabloid *Sensation*. Fell sends them to Transylvania to get a "Frankenstein Lives!" story. What they find is a "cute"—"quaint" would be a better word—town that's ambivalent about its image. They want to get the word out that there are "no scary monsters" there, but they also want to attract tourist dollars so they're converting a castle into a "theme hotel."

The hotel is staffed with a burlesque crew—John Byner and Carol Kane, who compete for a gold medal in subservience,

and butler Michael Richards, the most obnoxious, Vegas-y would-be comic of the lot.

At long, long last our heroes find what appears to be a lady vampire, a *Frankenstein*-ish monster and the Sicilian doctor (Joseph Bologna) who created him, a mummy, a wolfman, and a crotch-grabbing creature in a black lagoon. None is what they seem, as you'll learn if you can stay awake through the most unfunny denouement.

Written and directed by Rudy DeLuca, *Transylvania 6-5000* looks like what it is—a desperate attempt by a bunch of out-of-work second bananas to revitalize their careers, which explains why there's more laughter on the screen than in the audience.

Byner sums it up in the film's truest line: "This is cow ca-ca." (various theaters)

STAGE TO SCREEN

Back when theater was centralized and the best plays were found on Broadway, those plays almost automatically made their way to Hollywood where many of them turned up among each year's best films.

The natures of Broadway and Hollywood have changed so the play-based film (*Agnes of God*, *A Chorus Line*) is a relative rarity, but the legacy remains and many of the old movies rate another look. That's the idea behind the Castro Theatre's Stage to Screen series, tomorrow through Dec. 21.

More than a dozen Shakespearean offerings are included, by Olivier, Welles, Zeffirelli, Kurosawa and others. You can catch up on classics by Sophocles, Chekhov, Ibsen, Odets, O'Neill and on up through Albee, Hansberry, Osborne, Anouilh, Rabe, Pinter, Inge and Peter Shaffer.

Among the gay playwrights not already mentioned are Tennessee Williams, Oscar Wilde and Noel Coward.

We could gush about almost every program—and may in future columns—but meanwhile pick up a schedule and take some chances.

AIDS Medical Update

Due to the overwhelming response, Viacom Cable 6 will re-run *AIDS Update 85*, originally televised Oct. 21.

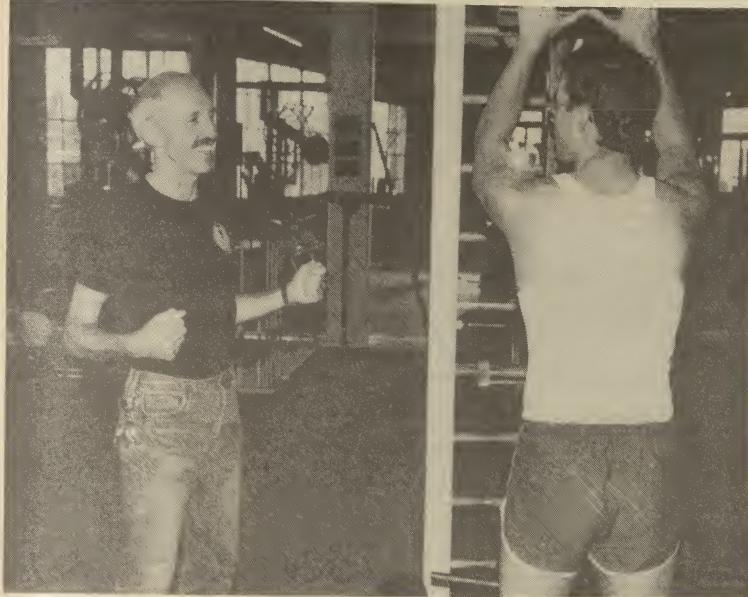
This two-hour special begins with *AIDS: Our Uncertain Future*, a half-hour show focusing on San Francisco's leadership role in the fight against the AIDS epidemic. Included are interviews with people with AIDS and AIDS Related Conditions, and members of the medical community from clinical, re-

search, and administrative perspectives giving an up-to-the-minute chronicle of AIDS socially and medically. It will be aired Nov. 21 at 9:30 and 11:30 p.m.

At 10 p.m. there will be a video-tape replay of the 90-minute viewer call-in show, *AIDS: A San Francisco Update*, featuring three of America's leading experts on AIDS answering phoned-in viewer questions.

BAY AREA REPORTER

SPORTS & FITNESS



City Athletic Club manager Ed Holland (l.) gives suggestions to the author (Photo: Rink)

Better than Ever

City Athletic Club a Success Under New Management

by Charles Linebarger

The City Athletic Club has reopened under new management. Despite the debacle of its sudden closure in the late spring, the male-only gym seems unchanged, even to its logo of a sinewy blonde hunk with a barbell on his knees. Ed Holland, one of the gym's new owners, talked about the change in management and the gym's long-term prospects.

"We bought the gym from the old owner," Holland said, "and the building from its new owner. We're not going out of business in a year. We spent \$8,000 just to open the door."

Talking about the City Athletic Club's unexpected lockout of its members earlier this year, Holland said, "The day they closed the IRS came in, in the afternoon, and said 'you owe us \$9,000 in back payroll taxes.' They told them to lock up and sell the place or they would for them. That's what happened."

The City Athletic Club was reopened July 8, but as Holland explained, it wasn't as easy as unlocking the doors. The Department of Health ordered

aerobics.

In case you haven't been there before, the City Athletic Club is located on what appears at first glance to be a large traffic island in the middle of Market Street at Castro. It is housed on two floors in a small building with the entrance on the Market Street side. Downstairs, where you enter, you'll see the front desk first. But as you enter, the door immediately ahead of you opens onto the shower room and wet area.

'Holland plans to have new carpets and window fixtures installed by Christmas.'

the new owners to resurface the hot tub and cold plunge at a cost of \$3,100. Another \$4,000 went into new machines, cleaning old ones, new pads, two new exercise bikes, new weight-in scales and additional free weights.

Holland plans to have new carpets and window fixtures installed by Christmas. As of today the gym has 22 Nautilus machines, two exercise bikes, a wide selection of barbells and dumbbells, a cold plunge, a jacuzzi and sauna, and a small carpeted space for stretching and

An almost pool-size jacuzzi waits for you just beyond the rather small shower space. There are only four or five shower fixtures. In the same large room shared by the showers and the jacuzzi is a tiled pool full of ice-cold water, the cold plunge. Off to the side of this room is a rather decent and clean sauna. That's the downstairs.

To the side of the front desk is a carpeted stairway that takes you up to the gym proper. The second floor area is divided into a small, unobtrusive office

behind a smoked-glass screen and three work-out rooms. The first is bare except for the exercise bikes and a few abdominal boards, the second has some Nautilus machines but is basically the free weight area, and the third is chock-full of nautilus machines.

I've worked out at this gym a number of times in the last month, and it is rarely crowded but even when it is it is not overcrowded. The people are pleasant, but there isn't much talking. People are generally seriously into their work-outs and trying to make improvements on their bodies.

Since I stick to the free weights I can vouch for the fact that there are enough here to handle a good barbell workout. They need equipment for T-bar rowing and the proper handles for cable rowing at their pulley machine, though you can use a straight bar that's available in a pinch. And if your knees are still capable, you will probably miss squat racks. But the basics are here.

What the City Athletic Club excels in is nautilus equipment. There are two of every machine, which helps eliminate long waits. And there are windows on all three sides of the gym, which opens up the small interior space to the street outside.

Joe Dupuis, who looks like a cross between a *GQ* model and a football player, is the instructor who will put you through your first work-out. He is a prize. Pat Morin is the gym's tightly-muscled aerobics instructor. Check with the front desk for aerobic class time.

City Athletic Club is a pleasant, undercrowded gym, with lots of windows and mirrors, good equipment, nice people in training, professional instructors, and a quiet intent atmosphere. One-year memberships range from \$225 (limited hours) to \$290, six-month memberships are \$150 (limited) to \$185, three-month memberships go from \$85 (limited) to \$110. It is open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Bowling Tournament Success

Saturday, Nov. 9, the Second Annual Community No-Tap Bowling Tournament was held at Japantown Bowl. This highly successful event attracted bowlers from San Francisco's gay bowling leagues, as well as bowlers from Los Angeles, Sacramento, and Palo Alto. By day's end 190 bowlers comprising 95 teams had hit the lanes, pins, gutters, and walls while striking up some remarkable scores, including a perfect 300 game by San Franciscan Hank Givan.

In conjunction with the tournament, the committee organized a raffle. In less than two weeks' time they were able to generate prize contributions from businesses and individuals

with a total value of more than \$1,600. The generous donors were: All American Boy, Bredwell and Meyer Flowers and Gifts, Cafe Si Marcos, Cliff's Variety, The Giraffe, Haagen-Dazs Ice Cream on Castro, Headlines, Hidden Gardens, High Gear, Japantown Bowl, Billy Tuesday, Nancy Lam, Leticia's, Liquor Express, Luisa's, McMillan Electric, New York Man, Pacific Heights Health Club, Park Bowl, Patio Cafe, Pier Pressure, The Pilson Inn, Play With It, Ltd., Ron Raimondi (Rat Lady), Ryan's Cafe, The San Francisco Eagle, Super Star Video, and The Village.

(Continued on next page)

EXPERIENCE
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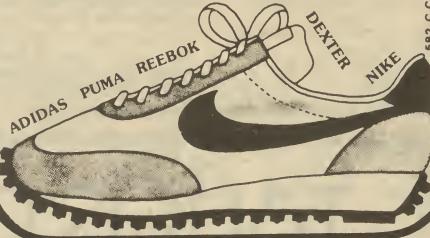
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SUNDAY RENO LEAGUE

(Week 5 of 28 - as of 11/10/85)	5. The "69" Club	12	8
1. Team #6	6. La Cage Ah Balls!	11	9
2. Split City Rollers	7. Strikes 'N' Spares	11	9
3. Sassy	8. Fore	11	9
4. Deadwoods II	9. Sorority Bitches	11	9
5. Team #1	10. Tramps R Us	10	10
6. S.G.F.H. & Biff	11. Strangers In The	10	10
7. Alley Cats	Night	9½	10½
8. Strange Interlude	11. 5 Inner Pieces	9	11
9. Rocky's Boys	12. The DP's	7	13
10. Vagabond	13. Bottoms Up	7	13
11. Lucky Strikes	14. Steering Committee	7	9
12. Team #15	15. Teddy Bears	6	14
13. High Rollers	16. Team #16	0	16
14. Not Again			
15. Spikers			
16. Miss-Splits			

HAWAII VACATION LEAGUE

(Week 19 of 40 - as of 11/01/85)	1. Gutter Girls	16	4
1. Wacky Keystones	2. Double D Dixie	15	5
2. The Eruptions	3. Do Das	14	6
3. Capricorn IV	4. Play With It, Unltd.	14	6
4. Hawaii Bound	5. Contours Gals	14	6
5. Yacht Club 1	6. Puhiko's	13	7
6. Wonder Women	7. Taco Tycoons	12	8
7. Maui Womies	8. Male Image	11	9
8. Versatiles	9. Mix Ups	11	9
	10. Team #18	11	9
	11. Brunswick Beauties	10	10
	12. Thing II	10	10
	13. Mother Nature	9	11
	14. Alley Oops	8	12
	15. Crystal Sisters	8	12
	16. Urasia Dragon	7	13
	17. Geri's Kids	7	13
	18. Stud City	6	14
	19. Team #20	6	14
	20. High Gear	4	16

MONDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE

(Week 4 of 32 - as of 11/04/85)	1. Bench & Bar	11	5
2. Kimo Therapy	2. Kimo Therapy	11	5
3. Footie Plumbing	3. Footie Plumbing	11	5
4. Belev Meanies	4. Belev Meanies	10	6
5. Bow-K	5. Bow-K	10	6
6. Damaged Goods	6. Damaged Goods	10	6
7. The Poppers	7. The Poppers	10	6
8. Play With It, Ltd.	8. Play With It, Ltd.	9	7
9. Agency	9. Agency	8	8
10. Scentsuals	10. Scentsuals	8	8
11. Diner Dogs	11. Diner Dogs	7	9
12. Tina's Weenies	12. Tina's Weenies	5	11
13. Pin Pals	13. Pin Pals	5	11
14. Vagabond	14. Vagabond	5	11
15. One's Still Up	15. One's Still Up	4	12
16. Pacific Coast Glass	16. Pacific Coast Glass	4	12

COMMUNITY BONANZA LEAGUE

(Week 7 of 32 - as of 11/04/85)	1. 5 Not So Easy	Pieces	21½ 6½
2. Team #5	2. Team #5	17	11
3. El Rio Tartarugas	3. El Rio Tartarugas	16	12
4. The Smooth Operators	4. The Smooth Operators	16	12
5. Team #2	5. Team #2	12½ 15½	
6. Spare Me!!!	6. Spare Me!!!	12	16
7. Oh! So Close!	7. Oh! So Close!	11½ 16½	
8. Team #8	8. Team #8	1½ 26½	

Compiled by Jerry R. De Young

Desperately Seeking Boxers

A San Francisco Boxing team is forming for Gay Games II in 1986. Practices are every Saturday beginning at 11:40 a.m. at the Ocean View Recreation Center, on the corner of Capitol Avenue and Montana Streets. Call 755-2348 for more information. ■

TUESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE

(Week 5 of 32 - as of 11/05/85)	1. Housewives From Hell	14½	5½
2. Five Big Balls	2. Five Big Balls	14	6
3. Number Won	3. Number Won	14	6
4. Team #8	4. Team #8	13	7

Early Frost

(Continued from page 22)

plausible that the attorney would wake up nauseous and drenched in sweat and not immediately think he might have AIDS. It's plausible that his lover, who is out to his own family, is willing to put up with the veiled insult of a separate phone line and the attorney's refusal to introduce him to his family. It's plausible that, after a lifetime of bad communication with his father, the attorney would crawl back to him in hope of finding love and understanding. Under the circumstances, it's more than plausible that the attorney would weekly, silently accept insults from a straight homophobe with AIDS in group therapy. Obviously, the attorney is ashamed of being gay. He is Middle America's dream fag come true. In reality, he is much more to be pitied because of his lack of integrity and self-respect than his illness.



Aidan Quinn (r.) and Gena Rowlands in *An Early Frost*

'By the way, there is one courageous queen in the story. He dies fast.'

Scriptwriters Ron Cowen and Daniel Lipman are not to be blamed too heavily for the attorney's namby-pamby response to life. Breathing passion into the lovers' supposedly passionate relationship while network censors have you strangling at the end of an artistic choke-leash must be difficult. Cowen and Lipman did pull off real feat when they made the father's discovery of a handle for his son's problem look like acceptance of the son himself. It's too bad they didn't have equal success with the sister. The poor girl is so confused, her love and her hate are hypocritical. Her performance of a she-loves-him-she-hates-him she-loves-him midair flipflop really deserves an Olympic gold medal.

By the way, there is one courageous queen in the story. He dies fast.

Some gay people have put forth the argument that we ought to be pleased with *An Early Frost*. After all, the show was meant for Middle America and was as honest as that audience

can take. That sadly valid line of reasoning, which relies on the assumption that Middle America is ignorant and prefers to stay that way, is an insult to everyone. But whether its line of reasoning is insulting or not, NBC exists to make money, not to raise the consciousness of Middle America. We may rest assured that NBC made money on *An Early Frost*.

Gay people do not have to stand up and salute every time a

commercial TV network runs a gay character up the flagpole. The tears of grateful identification *An Early Frost* jerked are proof not of its quality but of gay yearning to see gay lives dramatized. Our spiritual stomachs are so shriveled by starvation that the tiniest crumbs leave us sated. Until we believe we deserve more than crumbs, crumbs are all we're going to get. ■

B. Spunberg

ing effort in the fight against AIDS.

Involvement, caring, commitment, dedication, the bowlers, the community, and a lot of hard work made the tournament and raffle a huge success. Special thanks again to Terry Kaplan and the management of Japantown Bowl, and to Bill Kane, Simeon Traw, Ron Raimondi, Jack Hiatt and so many others who made this work. The inspiration from this year's success makes us all the more enthusiastic for next year's event. So mark Veterans Day weekend of 1986 on your calendar and plan on spending it at the Third Annual Community No-Tap Tournament. ■

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BAY AREA REPORTER

B.A.R. BAZAAR

MR. MARCUS



Only 34 Shopping Days Until Christmas

Pat Montclaire and Sonny Cline were the highlight entertainment last Thursday during the 7th Annual Golden Dildeaux Awards at the SF Eagle. The 7th edition of the world's only sex awards were revived as a fun and camp ceremony with a roster of presenters that encompassed both north and south of Market personalities, title holders, and aspirants to titles.

Montclaire dazzled the packed house in a glittering white gown with furs while Sonny performed his horny fireman's gyrations.

Needless to say, the winners in all categories were somewhat dismayed and surprised at the results of the voting. The hand-some plaques supplied by Jay (Golda) Platt bore classic lettering on their glistening red surfaces. Veteran MC of the Dildeaux, Randy Johnson, teamed up with Dick Ferris to provide humorous dialogue with their ad libbing throughout the evening.

Besides the winners in the 20 voted categories, *B.A.R.* publisher Bob Ross was chosen to present two "special" awards that have been long overdue and bestowed upon Allan Lloyd of the Church Street Station for the Casting Couch Tribute and to Michael Bowman and Bruce Harrelson, the Golden Gloves Award for obvious reasons.

The \$1 ballots provided a tidy sum of between \$350 and \$400



Sonny Cline's Firefighter's strip at the Golden Dildeaux Awards ignited patron's passions
(Photo: R. Pruzan)

for the SF AIDS Fund, and the evening was punctuated by raucous laughter when the winners were announced. You had to be there to believe it, and now that the awards are re-established

as an annual event, it's safe to say they will become a tradition to raise money for charitable causes.

Earlier in the week, Michael Palmer presided over the "unveiling" of his art show at the Powerhouse. Palmer captured in dark tones and delicate shadings the intrinsic leather nuances of the Powerhouse bartenders, including Patrick Toner, Matt Newman, Richard Ruggiero, and owner Ed Siegel. The gathered guests were treated to champagne by a tuxedo-clad Matt Newman and the addition of the paintings on the walls adds an enhanced masculine ambience to the place.

Over on Twin Peaks Blvd., mail order tycoon Patrick Batt (Mercury Mail Order) teamed up with Male Entertainment Network (MEN) to complete their astounding video of instructions

(Continued on next page)



All-purpose fetishism at the Golden Dildeaux Awards—
Jockey shorts and jockstraps
(Photo: R. Pruzan)

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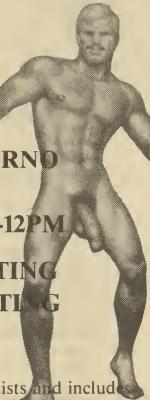
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Eagle beer bust celebrants raise money to hold the 1986 national gay square dance competition in San Francisco

(Photo: Rink)

Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

on how to use cock and ball toys. The one-hour video, selling for \$22.50 (including postage and handling), is available by mail order only, and scores of men across the nation are ordering it faster than they can be shipped. The instructional tape is high quality and employs some of the coolest dudes to model the specialized accoutrements to further enhance safe sex procedures.

And it was at the SF-Eagle last Wednesday night during Dinner and Dynasty that a crazed queen shrieked while the Moldavians were torturing Dex, "How dare they do that to him without poppers!" I guess it's time to drag out the "Save Alexis" t-shirts again; are you reading this David Cockman?

* * *

If you haven't seriously started your Xmas shopping yet, there's plenty to keep you

busy otherwise. Tomorrow night (Nov. 22), they're roasting "a real turkey" (their words) at the Stallion when former Mr. Gay SF and former Grand Duke Michael Bowman stand before the assembled bitches to be roasted—this promises to be one of the juiciest yet. You can dish all you want for a dollar a minute (nice going, JC) with the proceeds going to SF AIDS Hospice, beginning at 2100 hours.

If you find yourself in Los Angeles, the only place to be is at Griff's to help that leather landmark bar celebrate its 13th anniversary all weekend.

Sunday, Nov. 24, the Cycle Runners M/C is having a one-day Turkey Shoot run with check-in time at 1300 hours at The Transfer (what happened to their sign?) with bike and buddy events, a 100-minute Enduro run, and beer and people events in the bar. The \$6 tariff includes the beer and lunch.

Next Wednesday night at Trocadero Transfer, the Plymouth Rocks will appear for a pre-Thanksgiving celebration with \$3 ducats from 2200 hrs 'til 0400 the next day.

Sunday, the Uncut J/O Club is having another of their notorious parties where this time you can do your thing for video. For more information call Jerry at 552-1425.

I hope you're saving your tokens for Pete Pettine's "Leather & Lust" party at the Eagle Sunday, Dec. 1 featuring West Coast leather title holders, all the beer you can drink, Bar-B-Que, auction, the Hayward Raw Rahs, Danny Rodriguez, Ms. Peckerhead, Sonny Cline, and Madlyn Rough.

If you're planning ahead, the SF Gay Trojans football team takes on the SF Deputy Sheriff's at McAteer High Sunday, Dec. 8 as a benefit for the SF AIDS Fund, Gay Games II, and Meals on Wheels.

The Copperstate Leathermen of Phoenix, AZ are holding their 2nd Annual Leatherfest Dec. 13-15, sort of a mini-CMC Carnival (more on this later) and the newest exciting event takes place on Wednesday, Dec. 18, at the Ambush—the Beer Belly Contest—with prizes for Best of Show, Best "Inny," Best "Outy" and Best "Fuzzy." Anyone can enter. Sign up at the Ambush Leather Store (third floor) with a deadline of 2000 hours on 18 Dec. There will be an applause meter and a "distinguished panel of judges!" Besides all the private parties you'll be invited to, you should find yourself in the full social swing.

Most sought-after invitation this weekend: Judith Gould (actually two leather men) are throwing this soiree in a loft South of Market Saturday night to celebrate their second book (*Love Makers*). Their first bombshell, *Sins*, will premiere on network television in February with Joan Collins, Gene Kelly, James Farentino, and a host of other stars.

DISH CAN'T BE LOVE BECAUSE YOU LOOK SO SWELL

If you've missed seeing Miles Mitchell around the watering holes, it's because he's been spending a lot of time in Laguna Beach seeing Jesse, this gorgeous Latino dude who will be moving "up" and "in" soon, and Miles is

(Continued on next page)

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DIAL DICK



Matt Newmann, manager of the Powerhouse, contemplates a Golden Dildeaux award he didn't win—much to his relief! (Photo: Marcus)

Surprises at Golden Dildeaux Awards

Patrick Toner, Intl. Mr. Leather, added another accolade to his trove of honor when he was named Golden Boy of the Year at the 7th Annual Golden Golden Dildeaux Awards Thursday, December 14, December, at the SF-Eagle.

Randy Johnson, long-time veteran MC of the awards, was joined by Gold's Gym manager Dick Ferris in introducing the presentors and explaining the 20 categories related to sexual activities. Close to 400 persons paid \$1 to vote for the nominees, which benefited the SF-AIDS Fund.

Interspersed with the awards, entertainment was provided by Pat Montclaire, who wore a stunning white bugle-headed and droplet sequin dress, and was swathed in white fox fur tails. Mr. Drummer '84, Sonny Cline, enraptured the audience with his Horny Fireman disco dance routine, cascading tons of confetti from his fire extinguisher, and showering the crowd.

But the big show was the nominees and the winners themselves, who were aghast that they were voted one of the fire engineered trophies, handsomely engraved and furnished by Jay Platt.

The winners and their categories:

Best Performance in 3 Ways: Steve Iacovino and David Morris

Punchboard Award: David Stoll

Tea Room Commando: Manuel Marin ■

Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

making a TV movie (straight) wherein he plays a swabbie.

Roger Dee Jones of Castro Station is fast becoming a celebrity because of the Bloody Mary's he makes. Roger just loves making Bloody Mary's, especially on Saturdays when he plods the planks from 1200 to 1900. Since losing Don Covello, it's nice to know Don has found something to have fun with. At Castro Station, "It ain't a Mary unless Roger Dee makes it!"

The bike/fraternal presidents are jockeying for position and already campaigning for President of the Year to be voted upon at the Cheaters M/C Convention '85 at M&M Pavilion Saturday, December 1. I hear some "heavy" campaigning will take place and Ms. Piggi is all a-flutter with the intrigue brewing already. Ducats are \$5 a clip with Al Martino, Pres. of the Constantines M/C taking his "last walk" before the new Prez of the Year is elected. I can't wait to see the Caucasians! I was going to give a Corresponding Secretary of the Year Award to someone in the bike clubs this year, but find no one eligible so I will instead award the trophy to one of the Club Presidents at the Convention that night—I can't wait!

Jim (Mr. Tits) Cvitanich finally found some time to devote to his love life (aside from forays to the Slot) and after Pier Pressure latched on to a Holland-American Lines bartender from London. I thought Vern Stewart was the Welcome Wag hereabouts, but Jim certainly provided a stunning visit for Graham Elcombe of London. Mark "Bubbles" Abramson, having a penchant for men who ride horses (and I don't mean jockeys), opted for a trip to Reno to recuperate and just about now should be enjoying a few cowboys. Intensely cruising the casinos!

Did anyone ask Robert

Divine Miss "M" Award: Steve Kajikawa

Golden Bruiser Award: Charles Durham

Golden Arm Award: Terry Thompson

Best Male Performance by a Female Impersonator: Sable Clown

Best Female Performance by a Male Impersonator: Greg "Tatiana" O'Shell

Prince of Water Sports: Jerry Downing

Silver Lips Award: Randy Johnson

Golden Globes Award: Jeff Bell

Tools & Toys Award: Alan Selby

J/O Award: Larry "Spike" Bianchi

Paper Wedding Dress Award: Ernie Viola

Cobweb Award: Len West

Leapfrog Award: Pete Pettine

Golden Mouth Award: Phil Smith

Size Queen Award: (Mrs.) Sharon Viola

D.O.D. Award: Jerry McGuiness

Golden Boy Award: Patrick Toner

In addition, two non-voted awards were given out, the Casting Couch Award to Allan Lloyd of Church Street Station, and the Golden Gloves/Lovers Award to Michael Bowman and Bruce Harrelson. ■

Pruzan-adana what he did last Thursday night after the Golden Dildeaux Awards?

Did Duke Armstrong stay away from the Dildeaux Awards because he was embarrassed about the category in which he was nominated? Next year, they're adding "Thy Neighbor's Wife" category and you can expect a big voter turnout from the "other halves" in Foster City!

Unfinished Business, The AIDS Show, has been held over at Theatre Rhino and re-opened last night in the Studio (downstairs) through Jan. 15 so don't miss it! Call 861-5079 for reservations.

The Closet Ball has been booked into the Galleria next year and the most outrageous coming-out party will take place Sat. May 10 (the night before Mother's Day) so all you mothabs plan now!

Strong rumors that Dean Gibson has tired of the glitz of L.A. and will be returning any day now. How do I know? He sent Terry Thompson's black leather jacket back. I haven't heard if James Hamerick got his boots back yet.

Russ Pais at Castro Station is a heart breaker! You can't believe the roses that have been delivered to South of Market bartenders and other people!

* * *

Have a nice Thanksgiving next week and until you tune in to this same station, remember: There are three intolerable things in life—cold coffee, lukewarm champagne, and overexcited queens. See you 'round the campus!

Marcus

CORRECTION

Because of a typographical error in last week's edition, proceeds from the CMC Carnival and Pier Pressure were reported as being \$200,000. The figure should have been \$2,000. We apologize for the error.

Ancient Scandal

Prof. Judith C. Brown of Stanford's History Department has lifted the veil of silence that society placed for 1,500 years over sexual relations between women.

Her new book, *Immodest Acts: The Life of a Lesbian Nun in Renaissance Italy* (Oxford University Press, 1985), has been hailed by Renaissance scholars for providing a rare glimpse at early Western attitudes toward lesbianism. It is based on records of a convent scandal, now more than three centuries old, which troubled the Catholic church for four years.

Called in to investigate the mystical claims of the abbess of a Theatine convent near Florence, church investigators concluded in 1623 she was a woman of ill repute and punished her harshly for her behavior. The ab-

'The reports of the investigations contained . . . detailed descriptions of her sexual relations with another nun.'

bess and the revelations of her activities at the convent immediately sank back into the cocoon of silence that until recent times smothered nearly all reference to lesbianism.

Brown, an associate professor of history at Stanford and acting director of the Center for Research on Women (CROW), lifted this incident from obscurity completely by accident. While poring through ancient documents in the state archive of Florence, Italy, in search of other materials, she chanced on a reference to an investigation of an

abbess who claimed to be a mystic, but who turned out to be an imposter of dubious sexual and moral character. Brown located the lengthy document that gave details of the investigation. As she transcribed the papers, she realized they not only threw light on the secrecy that shrouded physical love between women, but also provided new insights into the lives of women in a momentous period of human history.

The reports of the investigations contained, among other things, detailed descriptions of her sexual relations with another

nun. This made the document unique for pre-modern Europe and invaluable for analyzing hitherto unexplored areas of women's lives, as well as Renaissance views of female sexuality.

In her new book, Brown traces the nun's story through her childhood in a remote mountain village of Tuscany, her rapid rise at age 30 to become abbess of her convent, her claims to miraculous favors, which included receiving the stigmata and a mystical marriage with Christ, and her subsequent fall from power. ■

Bazaar Calendar

Thursday 11/21: Forum Meeting, Chez Mollet (527 Bryant), 8:30 p.m., open to public.

Open Mike Comedy Night, Casa Loma, 9 p.m., MC/host Danny Williams.

Friday 11/22: Live Show, Casa Loma, 9 p.m., Grand Duchess Deena Jones and Company.

Roast, The Stallion, 9 p.m., roastee former GD Micheal Bowman, MC Karl Stewart.

Saturday 11/23: Buddy and Bomb Shell, Imperial Guard 9th Anniversary, M&M Productions (10 Rogers), doors open 6:30 p.m., show 8 p.m., \$7, featuring Imperial Challenge II: Char vs. Ginger.

Dating Game, Casa Loma, 9 p.m., MC's Randy Johnson and Dolli Levi.

Challenge Victory Party, Kokpit, 11 p.m.

Sunday 11/24: Cycle Runner's One-Day Run, "Turkey Shoot," Check-in 1 p.m., The Transfer, Bike and Buddy Enduro, People Events, Beer Bust \$6, 3 to 6 p.m. (includes food), celebrity pie throwing booth.

Employee's Beer Bust, SF Eagle patio, \$6, 3 to 6 p.m.

AIDS Fundraiser, Kimo's, 4 p.m., 'til benefit food bank and Godfather Fund, food, show, 50/50 raffle, all donations of canned foods or personal comfort items gratefully accepted, hostess Eddie-Jeanine Medina.

Monday 11/25 and 11/26: Royal/Imperial Presentation Rehearsal, M&M Productions (10 Rogers), 7:30 p.m. (also Tuesday).

Wednesday 11/27: Dynner & Dynasty, 9 p.m., \$7, SF Eagle, also most of your favorite taverns. ■

Compiled by Karl Stewart

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FRIESE FRAME

A Real Turkey

MARK FRIESE



Columnist Friese with Alma Joy and Miss Peckerhead after a spin on Pier Pressure's Tilt-a-Whirl
(Photo: R. Pruzan)

Wisked away into the waiting arms of two questionable ladies and tossed into the clutching menace of the Tilt-A-Whirl while flashbulbs popped all around was the introduction I received to this year's Pier Pressure party, and it was with considerable delight I noticed the mischievous look on the operator's face promising a ride that would bring back memories of my youth, not to mention my dinner. But I was brave and managed to thwart his valiant efforts and make it back to the disco frenzy that had embraced a seemingly modest warehouse at the wharf.

It was good fun except for the chilly temperature, but not even Jim Cvitanich can do anything about the weather. From the looks of Mark Abramson, also a producer of the event, two days later on Castro, it would seem he had mucho fun also. Congratulations to Pier Pressure and the CMC Carnival for the difference that the monies raised will make for the various charities they have been designated for, also to Ernie Viola for capturing the Mr. CMC title and keeping it in the Eagle family.

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation will host its second annual Thanksgiving Day dinner for Persons with AIDS, AIDS Related Complex, and their friends and families from 1 to 5 p.m., Nov. 28, at the Valencia Rose. There is no charge for this dinner, and there will be some hot entertainment. They are in need of cash donations specifically for this event, as well as potluck items. If you would like to attend, find out about how your donation can be picked up, or arrange for transportation, call 864-4376.

Pauline has given up the newspaper business and has returned to the stage. She can be seen on Sunday nights at the New Bell with Jim Brown at the piano and also will be appearing at this year's Cable Car Awards with an orchestra to back up the talents of this hot lady. Pauline and Jim appear at 9 p.m. on Sundays.

Last Sunday the new Variety Show at the Bench & Bar was all the glamour and pizza you could have hoped for. The Dreamgirls were fabulous, Danny Williams was a hoot, Camille, Mr. Dolly, and Fuji were to die

for. The next variety show will be for Taco Tony's birthday party Dec. 1, and as well as burning down the place when they light the candles, there will be a buffet.

This weekend save some of your partying for Sunday night when Beau Thompson of the Phoenix and many mega parties will be playing the music from 9 p.m. till 2 at the Tropicadero. If you have heard him play before then I know you'll be there, and if you haven't heard him, what are you waiting for? This is your chance! Tropicadero will be closed Thanksgiving, but will be open the night before from 10 p.m. till 4 a.m. for Plymouth Rocks. For this party the cover charge will be \$3, and Troc I.D. is not required.

Patrick "Patty" Paylor, with the help of many friends, has embarked on a holiday food drive for the S.F. AIDS Foundation Food Bank in connection with many of the Polk Street bars. There will be collection boxes at many of the bars on the Polkstrasse, and this drive will culminate with a party and show entitled Holiday Spirit at Kimo's Sunday, Dec. 7, starting at 4 p.m. For more information contact Patrick — I just can't get used to calling him that — at 771-6332.

This Saturday the Imperial Guards will celebrate their 9th — gee whiz has it been that long? — anniversary at M&M Productions, 10 Rodgers St. The party and show is called Buddies and Bombshells. No telling what Bryan Kelly will be wearing this time. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. with the show at 8 p.m. There will be food and souvenir pins and the admission is \$7 for the evening. A little guards trivia — who bought the first uniforms for the guards?

Supervisor John Molinari was well received at the recent Tavern Guild meeting in the Castro, and Hans came well prepared wearing his crash helmet to avoid any instant playbacks of past meetings.

Saturday, Nov. 30, Sweetlips and Andy will celebrate 117 years of birthdays. Guess that makes Andy about 37, doesn't it? The party will start at noon at Googie's, and will continue throughout the day with all sorts of festive goings on for your amusement.

Belated birthday greetings to Bob Lynch, formerly of *The Voice*, welcome home to Ferne, who will be on hand to supervise the carving of the turkey at a certain residence that has been known to have started carving from the bottom, and happy birthday to Wayne Friday on the 20th.

May all of you have a wonderful Thanksgiving. Whether you spend it with friends, family, or both, remember in these times there are still many things we can be thankful for. God bless. ■

★★★★★★★★★★
Food for 'Lust in the Dust'

The Royal Court of the Fire Crystal and the Ebony Star in conjunction with the Castro Theater would like to announce a special benefit matinee at the Castro Theater Saturday, Dec. 21. Doors open at 11:30 a.m., and the show starts at 12 noon. New World Pictures has graciously donated *Lust in the Dust*, starring Divine and Tab Hunter. This special showing is to benefit the San Francisco AIDS Foundation Food Bank. Admission will be with the contribution of canned foods or toiletry items at the door.

This is the second annual event sponsored by the Grand Ducal Council, a non-profit charitable organization. This benefit was originally conceived as an old-fashioned food drive and will help replenish the Food Bank, which relies solely on donations from community organizations and individuals.

Suggested items for donation are: canned fruits or vegetables; tuna; canned fruit juices; packaged meals; cereals; protein powder; condiments; vitamins; toiletries, or razors.

For additional information, or to make arrangements for pickup of bulk quantity donations in advance, please call 661-5039, or call the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, 333 Valencia St., 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103, at 864-4376. ■

★★★★★★★★★★

BOOK RACK

A Year's Flash

A Better Class of Blond: A California Diary
by David Rees
Olive Press \$7.95

by Marv. Shaw

Who is Rees talking to? Because it's a diary, he is talking primarily to himself. That's appropriate because the egotism stares arrogantly out of every page.

Might he be talking to his counterparts back in gray Britain, where anything about golden California seems so alluring? That seems probable. So much of the book is an inventory of the places (Russian River, Big Sur, Tahoe, Monterey, etc.) he "experiences" in his year here. Events, such as the Castro Fair, Gay Freedom Day, etc., pop up and are lived through.

Gay life in the Mecca and its satellites gets frequent rendering: the Castro, discos, bars, back-rooms, baths—and sex, sex, sex! Interlarded are a few typical gay domestic scenes of long-time male couples and battling lesbians. Various cultural occurrences—the symphony, the ballet—come to us strained through his British sensibility.

Read this way, the book is an extended travel brochure for the gay male from abroad, a kind of

Spartacus guide with "colorful" detail passed on.

Could the diarist be talking to us, to the gay community here in California? If so, are we interested in this 12-month mirror? If you are interested in a re-living of the recent past, maybe so. But if you want thoughts and feelings that reflect new ideas and different emotions about ourselves and our times, you are bound to be disappointed.

Oh, there are some stabs at depth. Once in a while, the giddy parade stops. Rees ruminates a moment, sometimes quite intelligently, as in a rebuttal to some rat psychologist's theory of homosexual development. And in recapping some parts of his life, for instance, a harrowing bout with viral meningitis, he involves us seriously.

Unfortunately, the greater part of this book is like a dizzy mosaic with nothing behind it. ■



Parallel Discoveries

In the Tent
by David Rees
Alison, \$5.95

by Marv. Shaw

Because blue noses reign in the publication and distribution of gay books for young people, few have appeared. And for every realistic *Reflections of a Rock Lobster*, there has been an *All-American Boy* with its violent revenge advocacy. Therefore, Rees' novel of coming out at 17 is a valuable addition.

'This kind of novel would seem to be Rees' true metier.'

There are several values to it. Though its cast and setting are adolescent, the very tone of male adolescent life anywhere rings true. Tim Keegan's growing realizations about his gay self must be thought and felt through the rough and tumble of his three late-teenage companions. His secret passion for the leader, Aaron, is typical of the crushes of that age.

The holiday mountain climbing that brings them to imprisonment in a storm-wrecked tent is presented dramatically and increases the tension. The fact that they are lost and resentful grates on all nerves. In the midst of this drama, Tim gets his revelation from an unexpected source.

Another value is the parallel story that grows out of Tim's fantasy of the siege of Exeter in England's mid-17th Century Civil War. Rees develops that narrative as though there was really another Tim at that time, also discovering his true gay self. A third valuable aspect is the "flash-forwards" that carry us into the boy's positive adulthood a few years later.

Finally, though the primary worth of this novel is in its potential for youth, the adult reader can re-experience his own teenage discoveries and appreciate the clever literary performance.

This kind of novel would seem to be Rees' true metier, a much better contribution than the giddy *A Better Class of Blond*. ■

New Nonfiction Titles Sought

Cleis Press, a women's publishing company, will read full-length (100 - 350 p.) nonfiction prose manuscripts through Feb. 1. The press is seeking new titles which will continue their commitment to publishing important books of interest to women.

Nonfiction prose manuscripts, either single-author titles, anthologies, or translations, may be sent to Felice Newman at P.O. Box 8933, Pittsburgh, PA 15221. All manuscripts must include SASE. Authors will be contacted after the February 1st deadline.

Since 1980 Cleis Press has published books of interest to a progressive, feminist trade audience. Most recently, the press published *With the Power of Each Breath: A Disabled Women's Anthology*. It has been reviewed in *Publishers Weekly Booklist*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *Kinesis*, and *Off Our Backs*, as well as other trade, feminist, and general publications. In early 1980, Cleis will publish Alicia Partnoy's account of her disappearance and survival in Argentina.

Prospective authors are encouraged to become familiar with previous Cleis titles, and may request a catalog from the address above. ■

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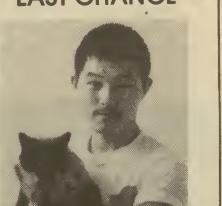
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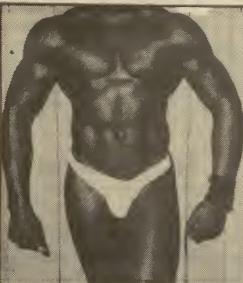
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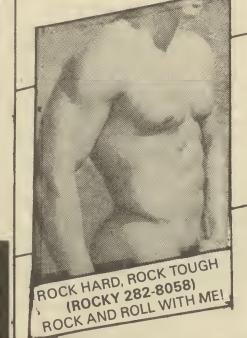
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